THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

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No. 2116.—VOL. LXXV. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1879. WITH TWO SUPPLEMENTS } SIXPENCE. By Post, 6½d.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN DECORATING OFFICERS ENGAGED IN THE AFGHAN AND ZULU WARS, AT WINDSOR CASTLE.—SEE PAGE 607.

BIRTHS.

On the 8th inst., at St. Margaret's, Cheltenham, the wife of John C. Gray, of a son.

On the 9th inst., at his residence, 84, Earl's Court-road, Kensington, W., the wife of F. A. Morse-Boycott, Esq., of a son.

On the 16th inst., at Penally House, Pembrokeshire, the wife of William J. O. Holmes, Esq., of Monar, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 10th inst., at Newchurch, Radnorshire, by the Rev. David Vaughan, Rector, Arthur Beavan Dixon, only son of F. Seekamp Dixon, of Chelsea, and grandson of the late Major Samuel Beavan, of Tyn-y-cwm, Newchurch, to Anne Eliza, only surviving daughter of the late Samuel Beavan, Esq., of Glas-cwm Court, J.P. and D.L. for Radnorshire.

On Oct. 9, 1879, at St. Peter's, Eastern Hill, Melbourne, Victoria, by the Rev. J. H. Gregory, assisted by the Rev. Canon Handfield, M.A., A. George Dumas, Barrister-at-Law, to Emmeline Arnold Harper. No cards.

DEATHS.

On the 27th ult., at his residence, Derwent Villa, Blagdon-on-Tyne, George Heppel Ramsay, Esq., aged 88, J.P. for the County of Durham for upwards of forty years. Deeply lamented.

On the 15th inst., at St. Leonards-on-Sea, Charles Henry Dabney, Esq., of New York, aged 72, father-in-law of E. Heinemann, Esq., J.P., of Ratton Park, Sussex.

On the 15th inst., at Butterkrowle, Wandsworth, Surrey, in the 68th year of her age, Maria, the beloved wife of Geo. Dixon Longstaff, M.D. Friends will kindly accept this notice.

On the 10th inst., at Aqualate, Lady Boughey.

*** *The charge for the insertion of Births, Marriages, or Deaths is Five Shillings for each announcement.*

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 27.

SUNDAY, DEC. 21.

Fourth Sunday in Advent.
St. Thomas, Apostle and Martyr.
Shortest day.
Morning Lessons: Isaiah xxx. 1—27, or Job xlii. 1—7; John xx. 19—24. Evening Lessons: Isaiah xxxii. or xxxiii. 2—23, or xxxv.; John xiv. 1—8.
St. Paul's Cathedral, 10.30 a.m. (the Bishop's Ordination), the Suffragan Bishop of Bedford; 3.15 p.m., Rev. Canon Liddon; 7 p.m., Rev. E. F. Sampson.
Westminster Abbey, 10 a.m., 3 p.m.
St. James's, noon, Rev. Canon Barry.
Whitehall, 11 a.m., Rev. R. M. Blakiston; 3 p.m., Rev. Canon Erskine Knollys.
Savoy, 11.30 a.m., Rev. Henry White, the Chaplain; 7 p.m., Rev. J. Wallis, Vicar of St. Andrew's, Stockwell.
Temple Church, 11 a.m., probably Dean Vaughan, the Master; 3 p.m., Rev. A. Ainger, the Reader.

MONDAY, DEC. 22.

Election of Common Councilmen for the City of London.
Society of Arts, Cantor Lecture, 8 p.m. (Professor C. Graham on the Chemistry of Bread and Bread-making).
Popular Concert, St. James's Hall, 8 p.m.
London Institution, 5 p.m. (Lord Reay on Social Democracy in Germany).
Brown Institution (at the University of London), 5.30 p.m. (Mr. W. S. Greenfield on Recent Investigations on the Pathology of Infective Diseases; and on Tuesday).

TUESDAY, DEC. 23.

West London Scientific Association, 8 p.m.
Institution of Civil Engineers, 8 p.m., anniversary.
King's College School, distribution of prizes by General Sir R. Wilbraham, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24.

George, King of Greece, born 1845.

THURSDAY, DEC. 25.

Christmas Day, Morning Lessons: Isaiah ix. 1—8; Luke ii. 1—15. Evening Lessons: Isaiah vii. 10—17. Titus iii. 4—9.
St. Paul's Cathedral, 10.30 a.m., Very Rev. the Dean, Dr. Church; 3.15 p.m., no sermon.
Westminster Abbey, 10 a.m. 3 p.m.
St. James's, 11 a.m., Rev. Francis Garden, the Sub-Dean.
Whitehall, 11 a.m., Rev. Dr. G. F. Maclear.
Savoy, 11.30 a.m., Rev. Henry White, the Chaplain.
Temple Church, 11 a.m., probably Dean Vaughan, the Master.

FRIDAY, DEC. 26.

St. Stephen, the Christian Protomartyr.
Albert Hall Choral Society, 7 p.m. (Handel's "Messiah").

SATURDAY, DEC. 27.

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist.
Royal Institution, 3 p.m. (Professor Tyndall on Water and Air, first Christmas Lecture).

THE WEATHER.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE KEW OBSERVATORY OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

Lat. 51° 28′ 6″ N.; Long. 0° 18′ 47″ W. Height above Sea, 34 feet.

Day.		Daily Means of: Barometer Corrected.	Temperature of the Air.	Dew Point.	Relative Humidity.	Amount of Cloud.	Thermom.: Maximum, read at 10 P.M.	Minimum, read at 10 P.M.	Wind: General Direction.	Movement in 24 hours, read at 10 A.M. next morning.	Rain in 24 hours, read at 10 A.M. next morning.
		Inches	°	°	°	1-10	°	°		Miles.	In.
December	7	30·469	23·2	22·3	·97	8	29·4	13·0	NE.	33	0·015*
	8	30·481	34·5	28·6	·81	8	37·8	20·0	NNW., N.	166	0·000
	9	30·525	30·4	30·4	1·0	8	34·4	25·9	N., SSW.	77	0·005†
	10	30·460	33·4	31·1	·92	8	38·2	28·6	SSW., NNE.	91	0·000
	11	30·580	25·2	25·2	1·0	5	32·5	19·3	NNE., W.	49	0·005
	12	30·658	33·7	30·4	·89	10	36·3	30·0	WSW.	62	0·005
	13	30·708	33·6	33·1	·98	10	36·6	30·9	NNE., SSW.	40	0·000

* Snow. † Sleet.

The following are the readings of the meteorological instruments, for the above days, in order, at ten o'clock a.m.:—

Barometer (in inches) corrected ..	30·488	30·464	30·596	30·449	30·528	30·654	30·751
Temperature of Air	19·9°	31·8°	32·7°	34·0°	29·3°	32·7°	31·2°
Temperature of Evaporation ..	16·6°	33·6°	31·6°	33·6°	29·3°	31·7°	33·7°
Direction of Wind	N.E.	NNW.	S.	SSW.	NNE.	WSW.	SSW.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE

FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 27.

Sunday. M.	Sunday. A.	Monday. M.	Monday. A.	Tuesday. M.	Tuesday. A.	Wednesday. M.	Wednesday. A.	Thursday. M.	Thursday. A.	Friday. M.	Friday. A.	Saturday. M.	Saturday. A.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
7 32	7 58	8 25	8 55	9 30	10 5	10 40	11 11	11 40	—	0 10	0 35	1 0	1 20

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, 1879.

ST. JAMES'S GRAND HALL, REGENT-STREET and PICCADILLY.

THE MOORE and BURGESS MINSTRELS' FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SERIES of HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES will commence on BOXING DAY, FRIDAY, DEC. 26, on and after which date Performances will be given EVERY AFTERNOON AND EVERY NIGHT, until the termination of the Holidays.

The world-wide reputation of this distinguished combination of Artistes is an ample guarantee that the ENTERTAINMENT WILL (as heretofore) TAKE THE FOREMOST RANK amidst the host of amusements produced for the delectation of the thousands of holiday-makers at Yule-tide.

THE FESTIVAL PROGRAMME will be one of the Most Sparkling and Attractive ever presented by the Moore and Burgess Minstrels since they opened here in 1865.

To give due effect to the CHRISTMAS AND NEW-YEAR'S ENTERTAINMENTS, an entirely New stage Front and appropriate Scenic Embellishments have been painted by that eminent artist, Richard Douglass, Esq.

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Prices of Admission:—Fauteuils, 5s.; Stalls, 3s.; Balcony, 2s.; Gallery and Great Area [illegible] seats, 1s. Visitors arriving at any of the Railway Termini in the Metropolis can reach St. James's Hall by omnibus.

MR. and MRS. GERMAN REED'S ENTERTAINMENT, ST. GEORGE'S HALL, Langham-place. Managers, Messrs. Alfred Reed and Corney Grain.—CLOSED. Will REOPEN BOXING DAY, at Three and Eight, with THE PIRATE'S HOME, by Gilbert à'Beckett, Music by Vivian Bligh; after which MASTER TOMMY'S "AT HOME," by Mr. Corney Grain; concluding with A CHRISTMAS STOCKING. Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday Evenings, at Eight. Morning Performances every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at Three. Admission, 1s., 2s. Stalls, 3s. and 5s.

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DORÉ'S GREAT WORKS.—"ECCE HOMO" ("Full of divine dignity."—The Times), and "THE ASCENSION;" "CHRIST LEAVING THE PRÆTORIUM," "CHRIST ENTERING JERUSALEM," with all his other Great Pictures.—DORÉ GALLERY, 35, New Bond-street. Daily, 10 to 6. 1s.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, South Kensington, will be OPEN to the Public on FRIDAY, DEC. 26, between the Hours of Ten and Four. At all other times the Gallery is strictly CLOSED on Fridays for cleaning and alterations, but open FREE all the rest of the week. By order, GEORGE SCHARF, Keeper and Secretary.

CRYSTAL PALACE PICTURE GALLERY (Twenty-fourth Season) is NOW OPEN, with many NEW WORKS by celebrated English and Foreign Artists. Descriptive Catalogues, including the VICTORIA CROSS GALLERY, price 6d. The yearly sales average £7000. Apply to Mr. C. W. Wass, Superintendent of the Gallery.

INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS. The FOURTEENTH WINTER EXHIBITION IS NOW OPEN, from Ten till Six. Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d. H. F. PHILLIPS, Secretary. Gallery, 53, Pall-mall.

THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT-GARDEN.—Messrs. A. and S. GATTI beg to announce that their second Grand Christmas Pantomime, entitled SINDBAD THE SAILOR, will be produced on Boxing Night, DEC. 26. Morning Performances, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, commencing Saturday Morning, DEC. 27, at Two. Box-Office open daily from Ten to Five. No booking fees.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—MERCHANT OF VENICE. EVERY EVENING at Eight o'Clock. Shylock, Mr Irving; Portia, Miss Ellen Terry. MORNING PERFORMANCES EVERY SATURDAY till further notice. Seats booked Six Weeks in advance.

CANTERBURY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Under Royal Patronage.—Best Entertainment in the World. Variety Artistes at Eight. Holtum, the King of the Cannon; and Aissa, at 9.30. PERI OF PERU, an original Musical Eccentricity, at Ten. Miss Nelly Power, supported by Mdlles. Alice Holt, Broughton, Powell, Aguzzi, and the Corps de Ballet. Prices, 6d. to £2 2s.

MASKELYNE and COOKE.—Christmas Programme. EVERY EVENING at Eight; Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at Three and Eight.—Mr. MASKELYNE will introduce his amusing Extravaganza SENNACHERIB, in Two Parts, and SUREVINS, in Two Pieces, embodying new startling Illusions and Surprising Mechanical Effects, and including one or two of the more prominent features of the popular séance "Elixir Vitæ" and "Zoe." As in all holiday seasons the Egyptian Hall overflows with visitors, it is advisable for all who can to attend before Boxing Day. Seats are now being booked for weeks in advance.

CHRISTMAS LECTURES.—ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN, Albemarle-street, Piccadilly, W.—PROFESSOR TYNDALL, D.C.L., F.R.S., will deliver a Course of Six Lectures (adapted to a Juvenile Auditory) on "WATER AND AIR," commencing on Saturday, Dec. 27, at Three o'Clock, to be continued on Dec. 30, 1879, and Jan. 1, 3, 6, 8, 1880. Subscription (for Non-Members) to this Course, One Guinea (Children under sixteen, Half-a-Guinea); to all the Courses in the Season, Two Guineas. Tickets may now be obtained at the Institution.

NOTICE.

As Christmas Day falls on Thursday this year, next week's ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS will be published on Wednesday morning; and no Advertisements for that Number can be received after Six o'Clock on Monday afternoon, the 22nd inst.

Office, 198, Strand, W.C.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1879.

The news from Afghanistan is of a decidedly serious tenour. General Roberts, unable to cope advantageously with the increasing and advancing forces of what we are compelled to designate "the enemy," after three days' fighting, each more severe than the last, but each resulting in the victory of our troops, has deemed it prudent to abandon the Bala Hissar, and to concentrate his force within the Sherpur cantonments. He is drawing reinforcements from the line of his communications at Gundamuk and Jellalabad, and troops are being dispatched by the Viceroy of India to fill up the vacancies thereby caused. "Excitement among the tribes," says Lord Lytton, in one of his telegrams, "is expected to spread." We should be sorry to draw from these items of intelligence more gloomy inferences than they will fairly warrant. The Indian Forces in Afghanistan, British and Native, will doubtless be able to maintain the defensive against all assault. They are from five to seven thousand strong; they are within lines which may be rendered all but impregnable; they are well provisioned for four or five months; their line of communication is not yet closed; reinforcements may be expected to reach them within a comparatively brief interval, and General Roberts may then deem it safe and expedient to resume the offensive, and, possibly, to disperse the gathering force of hostile tribes. But what a prospect do these facts bring before us of the future task of the Indian Government in the pacification of Afghanistan! What draughts upon the resources of our Eastern dependency! What ever-recurring uncertainty in the condition of its new conquest! Scarcely a week ago all was reported quiet, and—we grieve to say it—British vengeance upon the perpetrators of the Cabul massacre was being carried into effect without mercy. Now the seeds have been sown of interminable enmities, and the blood upon our hands, in view of many of the Afghan Tribes, can never be washed off. We may subdue the country, we cannot govern it. We may hold it by military force, but we cannot administer its civil affairs. The country will be a constant drain upon India, and, ultimately, upon England. It is time that we understood the nature and extent of the policy which dictated the invasion of Afghanistan. At present, we confess, we cannot see into the heart of it, and hence, perhaps, it appears to us to bode ill for the prosperity of British India.

There is news, too, of fighting in another quarter of the globe. Things are not yet settled in South Africa, though, for the present, Zululand remains quiet. Moirosi's Mountain stronghold has been captured by the Colonial Forces under Colonel Bayley. The chief himself was killed and about seventy of his followers. The loss on our side was, happily, small, and, as a result of the affair (which appears to have been skilfully conducted, but the difficulties of which seem also to have been greatly exaggerated), is spoken of in South Africa as bringing to a close "Frontier Native Disturbances." This may be true, so far as the Cape Colony is concerned. But the Transvaal is still agitated by the repugnance of the Boers to British Rule, and Secocoeni awaits upon the Frontier the operations of Sir Garnet Wolseley, which are likely enough to find a similar termination to those of the Colonial Troops against Moirosi.

In fact, mischief seems to be in the air all over the world. Nearly everything, in its turn, gives cause of offence. One is reminded by the state of nations of that constitutional ill-health of the body which renders the most insignificant abrasion of the skin a festering sore, and which neutralises the most efficacious remedies that can be applied. The temper of humanity just now, at least so far as it can be discerned from the policy of Governments, is out of joint. There is a dislocation somewhere which makes even healthy movement painful. Repose—if repose can be anticipated—is the only influence that can cure the pervading and increasing evil. We are all getting touchy. In one way or another, we all appear to be intent upon straying from the straight path. France, Spain, Austria, Germany, Russia, Turkey, and even Belgium are passing under what the population of each regards as a crisis. We are not without our own troubles, and, in the anticipation of most, we have not yet seen the worst. Of course, a severe winter—of which, it may be, we have only yet received an earnest—should it set in and last long, will find out our weak places, and

aggravate our sufferings. Such disturbing processes are part of the discipline of States. They are not altogether novel; they are not even extraordinary; they make a large portion of the history of every sublunary community. But they do not always assume an epidemical form. Now they are here, now there. Lately, however, it has been difficult to say where they are not. That they have checked much evil which would have otherwise ensued we do not doubt. That they have succeeded in instilling some useful lessons may also be believed. But even such convictions as these scarcely reconcile even the uncomplaining to passing and active evils.

Amid all that is sombre about and around us one fact is calculated to encourage us—we had almost said to cheer us—we mean the unquestionable revival of trade. To what extent this bright phenomenon may reach—how much of it may be evanescent, or how much is solid and permanent, we will not presume to say. *Dum vivimus, vivamus* is not an inapt motto for our present commercial condition. We have to make the best of what is given to us—to strike the iron while it is hot. Without doubt, even trade will be called upon to struggle with difficulties and to face renewed dangers. But "while there is life there is hope." A long period of insensibility has come to a close. Even winter itself has not proved the fallaciousness of our hopes. If we might but see "peace and goodwill" among men, we might draw nigh to Christmastide with tranquil anticipations.

THE COURT.

The Queen, at a private investiture of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, held last week at Windsor Castle, knighted Colonel C. K. Pearson, and invested him with the ribbon, badge, and star of a Knight Commander of that order; and Major-General Crealock received from her Majesty the insignia of Companion of the same order. After the ceremony the Queen's dinner party included Princess Beatrice and Prince Leopold, the Marchioness Dowager of Ely, the Hon. Horatia Stopford, the Hon. Emily Cathcart, Lord Elphinstone, Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Ponsonby and the Hon. Lady Ponsonby, General Sir Daniel Lysons, Major-General Hope Crealock, Major-General F. Marshall, Colonel H. Rowlands, Colonel Sir Charles Pearson, Colonel W. E. M. Reilly, Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. England, Lieutenant Colonel C. M. Clarke, Captain Bradshaw, R.N., and Captain Campbell, R.N.

The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh arrived at the castle yesterday week on a visit to her Majesty. Prince Alfred, and Princesses Marie, Victoria, and Alexandra of Edinburgh had previously arrived. The Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, came to London in the afternoon, and visited the Duchess of Cambridge at St. James's Palace. Her Majesty travelled from and to Windsor by special train on the Great Western Railway. The Duke of Cambridge arrived at the castle. Her Majesty's dinner party included the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold, the Duke of Cambridge, the Marchioness Dowager of Ely, Lady Emma Osborne, Baron and Baroness Königsegg, Lord Elphinstone, and Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Ponsonby.

The Queen, with the Duchess of Edinburgh and Princess Beatrice, walked out on Saturday. The Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Leopold came to London. The Duke of Cambridge and Prince Alfred and Princesses Marie, Victoria, and Alexandra of Edinburgh left the castle for London. The Prince and Princess of Wales and Princess Louise of Lorne, with the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Leopold, arrived at the castle in the evening.

Sunday was the eighteenth anniversary of the death of the lamented Prince Consort, as well as the first anniversary of the death of her Majesty's beloved daughter, Princess Alice, Grand Duchess of Hesse. The Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Strathearn, Prince and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, Princess Louise of Lorne, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Leopold went to the Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore, where a special service was performed in the morning by the Dean of Windsor. Sir George Elvey and the choir of St. George's Chapel were in attendance. A cast of the recumbent statue of the Grand Duchess of Hesse and her daughter Princess Marie, by Mr. Böhm, had been placed in the mausoleum. By her Majesty's commands, the mausoleum at Frogmore was opened from one to half-past three p m , for the members of the household and the servants resident within the castle and their families to visit it. Her Majesty's permission to visit the mausoleum was extended to many of the residents in Windsor and its neighbourhood, and also to various tradesmen in the town, with their families. The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh left for town shortly after two o'clock. The Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Louise of Lorne, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Leopold attended Divine service in the afternoon in the private chapel of the castle. The Rev. T. Teignmouth Shore, Incumbent of Berkeley Chapel, Mayfair, officiated. The Dean of Windsor dined with her Majesty and the Royal family.

The Prince and Princess of Wales left the castle at twenty minutes past ten on Monday morning for London. The Queen held a Council, at which were present Prince Leopold, the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, the Earl of Beaconsfield, the Right Hon. R. A. Cross, and the Right Hon. W. H. Smith. The Earl of Beaconsfield, the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, and the Right Hon. R. A. Cross had audiences of her Majesty. General Guzman, Minister from Guatemala, was introduced to an audience of the Queen, and presented his credentials; and the Hon. C. Vivian was also introduced to an audience and kissed hands on his appointment as Minister-Resident at Berne. Her Majesty's dinner party included Prince and Princess Christian, Princess Louise of Lorne, Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold, the Marchioness Dowager of Ely, the Earl of Beaconsfield, Lord Elphinstone, and Rear-Admiral Sir E. Commerell.

Princess Louise of Lorne and Prince Leopold came to London on Tuesday and visited the Westminster Hospital. Their Royal Highnesses returned to the castle to luncheon.

The Queen, accompanied by the members of the Royal family, has taken her customary out-of-door exercise, and has visited the Dean and Mrs. Wellesley and Lord Rokeby at the Deanery, Windsor.

The Earl of Beaconsfield left Windsor Castle on Wednesday.

The Empress Eugénie, who arrived at Windsor Castle on a visit to the Queen on Tuesday evening, went with her Majesty and Princess Beatrice to the Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore on Wednesday morning, and afterwards left the castle for Chiselhurst.

The Queen, Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold, and Princess Louise left Windsor Castle at ten o'clock on Thursday morning for Osborne, where the Court will remain for the Christmas holidays.

Mr. Belt has submitted to the Queen a bust of the late Prince Louis Napoleon; and Mrs. Butler the sketch of her picture of the defence of Rorke's Drift.

The Marchioness Dowager of Ely has succeeded Lady Abercromby as Lady in Waiting; and Mr. J. F. Campbell, of Islay, has succeeded Colonel the Hon. C. Lindsay as Groom in Waiting to her Majesty.

The Queen has telegraphed to Sir F. Roberts requesting him to make known to the troops engaged in the action before Cabul her admiration of their gallantry, and her sympathy for the officers and men wounded in action.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, before leaving Marlborough House for Windsor Castle, where they arrived on Saturday evening, received the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh and Prince Alexander of Hesse at luncheon, and, accompanied by Princess Louise of Lorne, Prince Ferdinand of Glücksburg and Prince Louis of Battenberg, went to the Lyceum and the Prince of Wales's Theatres. The Princess and Prince Louis of Battenberg were present one afternoon at the Maskelyne and Cooke entertainment at the Egyptian Hall. The Prince was also present at a meeting of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, at their offices in Hanover-square. The Prince and Princess, who arrived at Marlborough House from Windsor Castle on Monday morning, left in the afternoon for Eastwell Park, Kent, on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh. The Prince has sent presents of game for the use of the patients in the Norwich, Great Yarmouth, and other Norfolk Hospitals. Colonel Teesdale has succeeded Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke as Equerry in Waiting.

The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, during their short stay in town, went to St. James's Theatre, and the Duchess inspected the needlework at the Ladies' Work Society in Sloane-street. The Duke and Duchess, after visiting the Queen at Windsor, left Clarence House on Monday for Eastwell Park, where they have been entertaining company during the week.

Prince and Princess Christian returned to Cumberland Lodge yesterday week from visiting Mrs. Gerard Leigh at Luton Hoo. During the visit Prince Christian, with a large party, had excellent shooting; and Mrs. Leigh entertained her Royal guests one evening with private theatricals, at which many of the county families were present.

The Duchess of Connaught, accompanied by the Duke of Connaught, distributed the annual prizes to the successful competitors of the London Irish Rifles (the 28th Middlesex). The ceremony took place yesterday week at St. James's Hall. Among the prizes were a diamond ring and a gold brooch and earrings, given by his Royal Highness. The Duke wore his uniform as Honorary Colonel of the regiment. A guard of honour, consisting of one hundred rank and file, under the command of Captain Inglis, was in attendance. The Duke of Connaught and Prince Leopold were on Saturday installed as Knights of Malta at the Masonic Rooms of the "Supreme Council of the 33rd Degree." Prince Leopold has consented to preside at the ninety-second anniversary festival of this institution, to be held in May next.

The Duke of Cambridge returned to Gloucester House yesterday week from visiting Lord and Lady Alington at Crichel, Dorset.

Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar and Countess Dornberg, with Prince Ferdinand of Glücksburg and Prince Louis of Battenberg, attended a fancy-dress ball yesterday week at the Assembly Rooms, Southsea. The company numbered 500, and the dresses were rich and picturesque.

His Excellency the Turkish Ambassador and Mdlle. Musurus returned to the Embassy on Saturday last from spending a few days with Earl and Countess Delawarr at Buckhurst. His Excellency the German Ambassador and the Countess Marie Münster have returned to the Embassy on Carlton House-terrace from visiting the Earl and Countess of Rosslyn at Easton Lodge, Dunmow. The Duke and Duchess of Bedford and the Ladies Russell have returned to Woburn Abbey.

Countess Cowper gave a county ball at Panshanger on Thursday night. The Earl and Countess of Rosslyn gave a ball on the 10th inst., at Easton Lodge, Essex, in celebration of the eighteenth birthday of Miss Maynard, Lady Rosslyn's eldest daughter, who on this occasion made her début. Above 300 invitations were issued. The band of the 2nd Life Guards was in attendance.

The marriage of Viscount Lewisham and Lady Mary Coke, youngest daughter of the Earl of Leicester, was solemnised on Thursday morning at Holkham church.

It is announced from Dublin that the Lords of the Treasury have sanctioned the scheme submitted to them by the chiefs of the several divisions for the reorganising of the official staff of the Chancery and Law Offices.

The report by the liquidators of the City of Glasgow Bank was issued on Wednesday night. It states that during the year there has been realised from the assets of the bank £4,850,000, and from calls made on contributories £4,450,000, together £9,300,000. There have been paid in dividends to creditors £7,396,940. They will soon make a further payment, bringing the dvidend up to 15s. per pound.

It is stated that the Attorney-General has granted his *fiat* for a writ of error in the case of the Tichborne Claimant, upon doubts whether the Court had the power to pass a sentence of penal servitude upon each separate count of the indictment, and whether the sentence ought not to have been one of seven years' penal servitude. This period has now expired, and if the point of law should be successful, the Claimant will be at once restored to liberty.

At Wednesday's meeting of the School Board for London a letter was read from Sir Charles Reed, who is still on the Continent, thanking the board for having re-elected him as chairman. The organisation of the Bye-laws and the Industrial Schools Committees again engaged a good deal of the time of the Board. The result was the passing of a resolution suspending for six months action on the resolution agreed to at the previous meeting, and authorising the constitution in the meantime of the two Committees in the ordinary way and with their former duties. A gift of £200 from Mrs. Charles Buxton and Mr. Sydney Buxton towards a scholarship for boys was announced. The clerk of the Clothworkers' Company had written that it was the intention of that Company to continue the grant of four scholarships of an average value of £30 per annum, tenable for four years; and he hopes before midsummer to be able to announce the grant of an annual scholarship of the same value for the benefit of girls. The Board adjourned over Christmas, till the 7th of next month.

THE QUEEN AND HER OFFICERS.

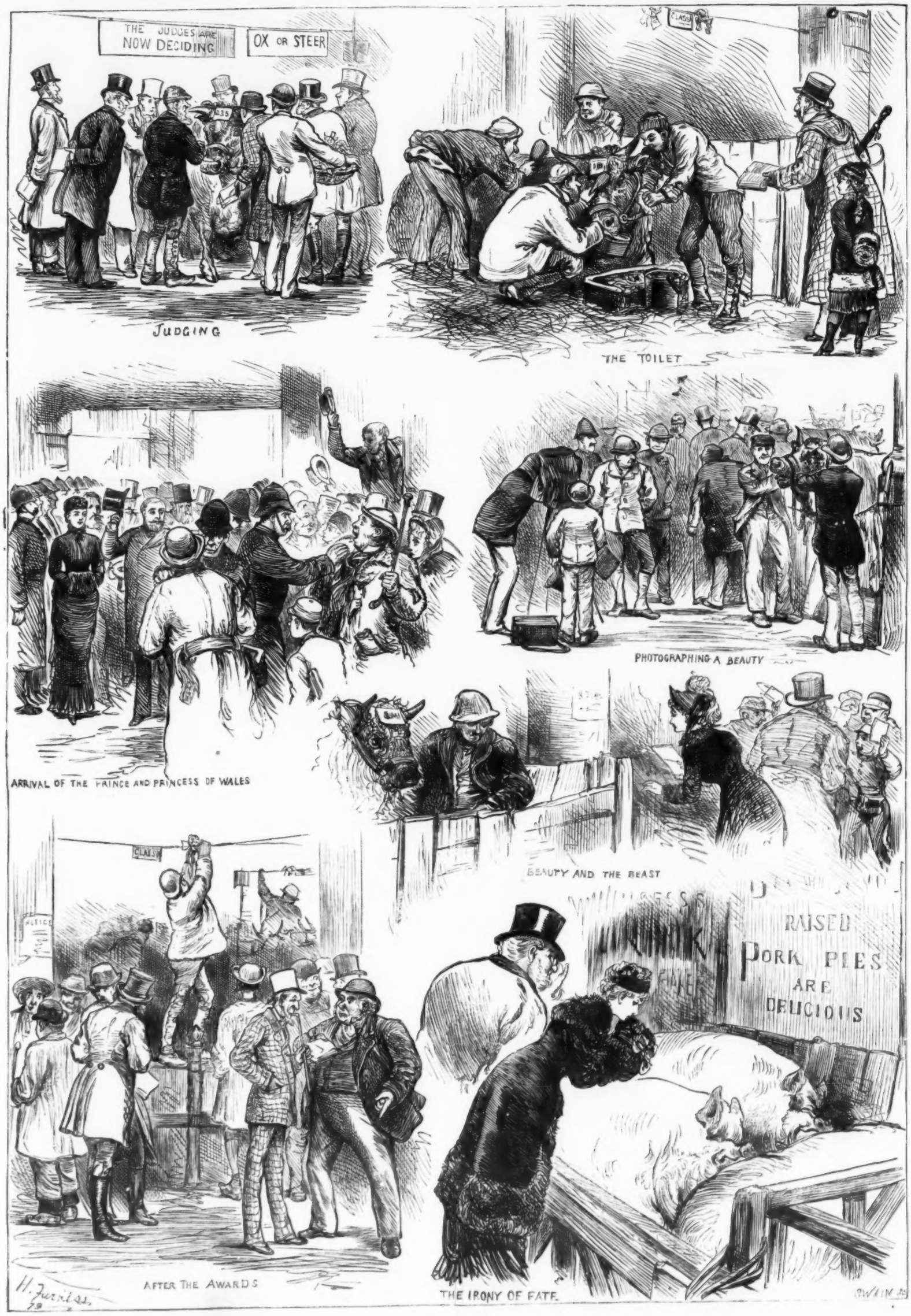
Our front-page Engraving is an Illustration of the scene in the White Drawing-Room of Windsor Castle on Monday week when her Majesty personally decorated with the insignia of her Order of the Bath six newly-appointed Knights Commanders and twenty-four Companions of that Order, most of whom have earned these honours by their conduct and service in the late Afghan and Zulu Wars. The Knights were Commissary-General Sir Edward Strickland, Lieutenant-General Sir Samuel Browne, Major-General Sir Michael Biddulph, Sir Henry Drummond Wolff (Civil Service), Rear-Admiral Sir Francis Sullivan, and Colonel Sir Owen Tudor Burne. The gentlemen invested with the dignity of C.B. were Colonel Glyn, 24th Regiment, Colonel Elgee, R.A., Colonel Walker, Scots Guards, Colonel C. K. Pearson, late 3rd Buffs, Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Lindsay, R.A., Colonel Blyth, late 40th Regiment, Colonel R. B. Chichester, Colonel W. Stirling, R.A., Deputy-Surgeon-General Hendley, Captain Eyre Massey Shaw, London Fire Brigade, Major-General Newdigate, Captain R. Bradshaw, R.N., Colonel Drury Lowe, 17th Lancers, Colonel Whitehead, 58th Regiment, Captain Fletcher Campbell, R.N., Lieut.-Colonel Welman, 99th Regiment, Lieut.-Colonel Pemberton, 60th Rifles, Lieut.-Colonel Tatton Butler Brown, R.A., Lieutenant-Colonel Parnell, 3rd Buffs, Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield Clarke, 57th Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel J. North Crealock, 95th Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Harness, R.A., Commissary E. W. H. Webb, and Surgeon-Major Cuffe. Two others, Major-General H. W. Palmer, 90th Regiment, and Lieutenant-Colonel Gilbert, 13th Regiment, were kept from attending by illness. The Queen was accompanied by their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold, and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein. Among the guests of her Majesty present on this occasion were Lord and Lady Chelmsford, General Sir Charles Ellice, Quartermaster-General, and Colonel Sir Evelyn Wood, V.C. The officers who had served in the Zulu War were the last to be presented to her Majesty. In our Illustration, which is from a sketch by an eye-witness, Colonel Pearson, who commanded the garrison in the defence of Ekowe, is seen kneeling before the Queen, who is in the act of fastening the Cross of the Order of the Bath to the breast of his coat. Among those who appear here waiting for their turn are Colonel Drury Lowe, Lieutenant-Colonel Harness, R.A.; Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke, who commanded a brigade from the time the relieving force for Ekowe was formed to the end of the war; Lieutenant-Colonel North Crealock, who was Military Secretary to Lord Chelmsford throughout the campaigns of 1878 and 1879, never absent from his chief a single day; Commissary Webb, and Surgeon-Major Cuffe, whose services in Zululand have not been forgotten. The Queen was attended by the Duchess of Wellington and Lady Abercromby, with the Gentleman in Waiting and the Master of the Household. On the next day, her Majesty personally decorated with the Victoria Cross three other officers, Lieutenant-Colonel W. Knox Leet, 13th Light Infantry; Captain E. P. Leach, R.E.; and Lieutenant Reginald Hart, R.E., with Corporal W. Allan, 24th Regiment, and gave medals to four soldiers.

THE SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW.

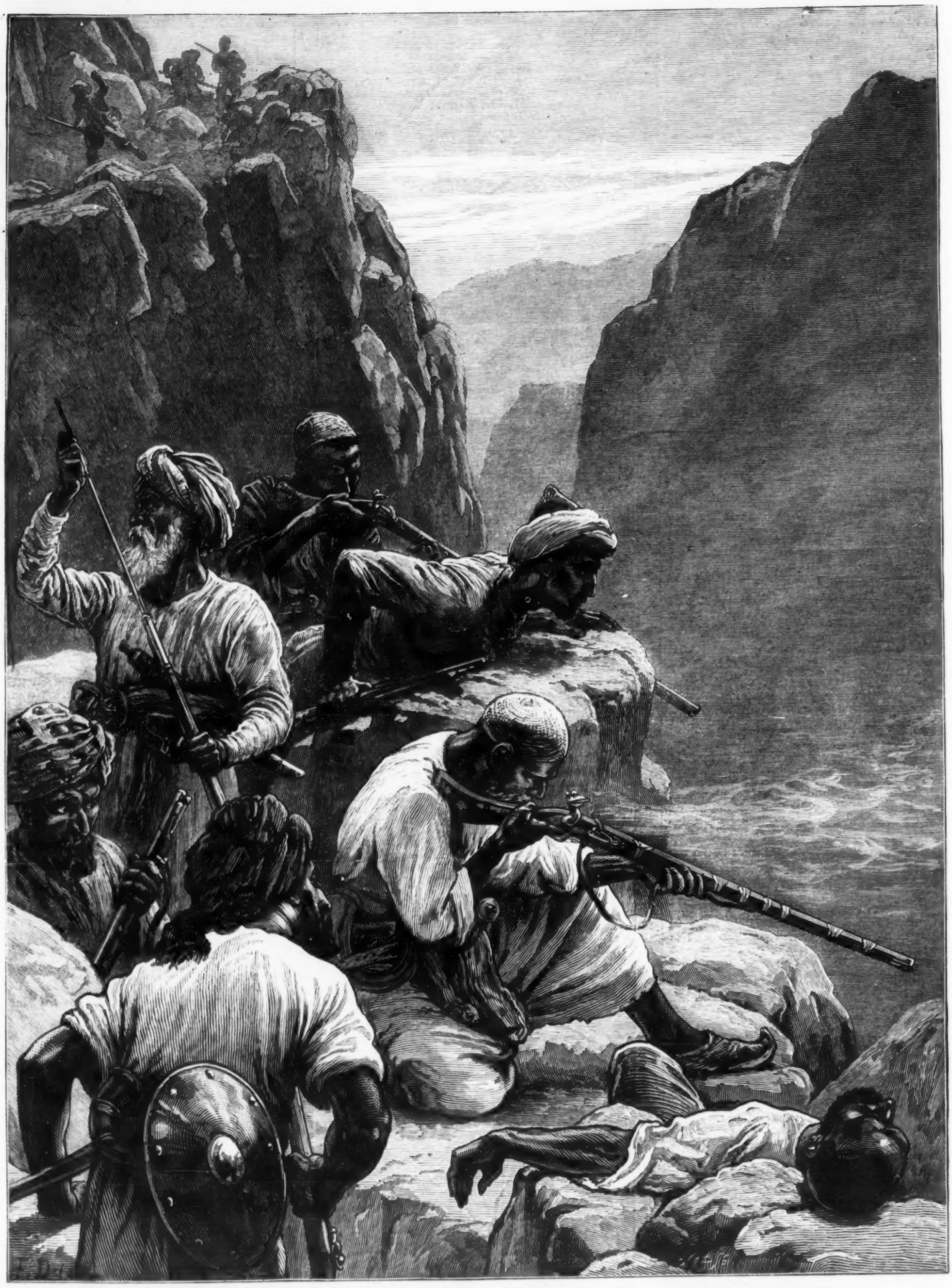
Smithfield, to the younger generation of Londoners and Christmas visitors to London, is little more than a name. They have read in history that the Protestant Martyrs were burned there, in the cruel reign of Queen Mary, and they may have heard likewise, from their fathers, how, in the kind reign of our beloved Queen Victoria, cattle and sheep were sold there, and slaughtering was practised by the butchers in yards and sheds around this East Central place of metropolitan traffic. But it is only the middle-aged man who has a personal remembrance of the great live-meat market that used to be held in Smithfield on the site of the present greater dead-meat market, before the City Corporation provided a more suitable place for that business in the open grounds between Holloway and Camden Town. The Smithfield Club, however, being an association of graziers, cattle-breeders, cattle-dealers, and carcase-butchers, with owners of property and commercial men interested in this commodity of flesh meat, to promote the breeding and fattening of sheep and oxen for human food, still derives its name from the old locality of the London wholesale trade. Its yearly Exhibitions, as may be remembered, were formerly held in Baker-street, at the West End, which seemed a sort of concession to fashionable society, as if country squires who were staying in London could not be expected to come far out of their way. The great Agricultural Hall at Islington was built partly for the accommodation of this and other periodical or occasional shows, as of horses and dogs, which would be attractive to gentlemen from the agricultural districts. Here it was, in the usual course, on the Monday and following days of last week, that the eighty-second annual cattle show of the Smithfield Club was held; and our readers cannot wish us to repeat the stereotyped phrase, "with success equal to any that has preceded it." The truth is, that any comparison would be more or less fallacious without a most precise and accurate knowledge of technical and statistical details, which we have no pretension to understand; so, leaving all that to him whose "talk is of bullocks," we simply invite the reader, in company with the Artist of our Sketches, to stroll through the Cattle Show for a few minutes, and to observe the humours and manners of people there assembled. They are portrayed in a variety of acts and attitudes; dressing up the beauties of the show with an elaborate toilet; admiring, judging, photographing, almost fondling, those magnificent confections of living flesh and fat, "bovine, ovine, and porcine," as a certain reporter used to say; the beasts have their glory and the profitable brutes their praise. "Breeding in all its branches" is to be the honoured toast of the evening, notwithstanding any little disappointment "after the awards;" and it is not till the Christmas week that the butcher's knife will inflict "the irony of fate" upon the proudest specimens of thriving animal gluttony that wallow in the pens and stalls of this most pleasing and promising Exhibition. Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, following the example of his late Royal Highness the Prince Concert, visited the Smithfield Cattle Show; and we hope that the well-managed farm at Sandringham will be prosperously conducted in this and all other departments of stock and produce.

Intending exhibitors from the United Kingdom to the Melbourne International Exhibition are reminded that the last day for receiving entries is Dec. 31, at the offices at the Agent-General for Victoria, 8, Victoria-chambers, Westminster.

The First Lord of the Admiralty presided on Tuesday evening at the festival of the Warehousemen and Clerks' Schools, held at the Cannon-street Hotel. The result of an appeal made by the right hon. gentleman was a list of subscriptions amounting in all to over two thousand guineas, including fifty guineas contributed by himself.



SKETCHES AT THE SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW. SEE PAGE 567.



THE AFGHAN WAR: HILL-MEN ATTACKING A CONVOY.—SEE PAGE 570.

THE AFGHAN WAR.

We regret to say that very bad news of the British Army in the occupation of Cabul has reached us this week. A formidable rising of the people around Cabul, joined with the late Ameer's troops which had rallied at Ghuzni, has recaptured the commanding positions on the heights above the capital, fighting several days against detached British forces, which were not, upon the whole, sufficient to resist their junction and further progress, obliging General Sir F. Roberts, last Sunday, to abandon the city, and to collect his small army in the Sherpur cantonments, two miles out of Cabul; but there seems to be no fear that he will be unable to defend himself in this position. The city population is supposed to have risen against the British authority, as none of our troops remained in the city, and the fortified precinct of the Bala Hissar was abandoned before.

The following communication, by telegraph, dated last Monday from Cabul, has appeared in the *Times*, and seems the clearest attempt to summarise the important events of the last few days:—

"General Roberts has known for some time that he had to face the likelihood of several gatherings of malcontents. One of these, which had its origin in the neighbourhood of Ghuzni, and was supported by the preaching of some noted fanatical moollahs, took substance near Maidan. Another was in Kohistan, a third in Zaimukht, and the last in Logar. As these gatherings menaced the peace of the country, General Roberts determined to take action. General Baker, therefore, marched on the 9th with four mountain guns, five troops of the 5th Punjaub Cavalry, 450 men of the 92nd Highlanders, and 450 men of the 5th Punjaub Infantry, taking such circuitous routes, by Char-Asiab and across the Cabul river, as would place him behind the Ghuzni gathering at Maidan and cut off the retreat upon Ghuzni. General Macpherson, with a squadron of the 9th Lancers, a squadron of the 14th Bengal Lancers, four guns, a mountain battery, the 67th Regiment of Foot, 900 men of the 3rd Sikhs, and the 5th Goorkhas, marched in the direction of Urghundeh on the Ghuzni road, with orders, by an appearance of timidity and hesitation, to draw on the Ghuzni insurgents, who were known to have a desire to make a junction with the Kohistan people. He was then to interpose between the two bodies and prevent their junction, and either defeat the Ghuzni insurgents or drive them back on General Baker. On the 10th inst. General Macpherson had an action with the Kohistan insurgents, whose movements for a junction were quicker than those of the Ghuzni men. He easily drove them back northward, with only Colonel FitzHugh wounded. He was then joined by General Roberts, who upon his arrival ordered that General Macpherson should move the next day along the road towards Urghundeh, and that Brigadier-General Massy, with a small force of Horse Artillery and Cavalry, should co-operate with him by the valley road. The Ghuzni insurgents, if not beaten by General Macpherson and Brigadier-General Massy, would then be thrown back. Brigadier-General Massy, who advanced too confidently through a difficult country, intersected with watercuts and studded with walled villages, suddenly found himself confronted by the Ghuzni insurgents in great force. Loth to retire as prudence dictated, he opened fire with his guns, but without checking the advance of the enemy. The cavalry charged in order that time might be given for the guns to be extricated, but the enemy were too numerous and the charge was repulsed. A second desperate charge was attempted, with a similar result. In attempting to withdraw the guns they got into difficulties, were upset in the watercuts, and passed for some time into the hands of the enemy. The gunners and cavalry retreated, covered by the 14th Lancers. General Roberts, who had ridden out from the camp, rallied a portion in the direction of Dehtimozang, and Captain Deane, a volunteer on the Staff, rallied some others. Colonel Macgregor, Chief of the Staff, met the latter party, and under his direction and guidance the guns, which, fortunately, the enemy could not carry away, were recovered. No words of praise are too great for this action. The enemy, triumphant from Brigadier-General Massy's mishap, had in the meantime marched towards Cabul, and would have entered the city but that General Roberts, with great forethought, had guarded the Dehtimozang defile with two companies of the 72nd Regiment, who were reinforced by the cavalry he had rallied. General Macpherson, hearing Brigadier-General Massy's guns, had forthwith altered his route accordingly and pressed the enemy's rear, without, however being able to bring them to close action. The insurgents, finding themselves between General Macpherson and General Roberts, betook themselves to the hills about the city. General Macpherson encamped for the night at Dehtimozang. In the meanwhile excellent arrangements were made for the defence. Sherpur is much denuded of troops. General Roberts returned from Dehtimozang in the evening, riding through the city, which was perfectly tranquil.

"On the 12th inst. General Macpherson was instructed to dislodge the enemy from the position which they had taken on the hills above the city, and from which they had made during the night several determined attacks upon the hills commanding the Bala Hissar, which post, however, was gallantly held by a picket of the 72nd Regiment. The possession of this hill would give the insurgents ready access to the city. General Macpherson's attack was directed from this picket hill against a very steep conical hill called Taktishah, which was held in great force by the enemy. The attacking force, which was commanded by Colonel Noel Money, consisted of 200 men of the 67th Regiment, 150 men of the 3rd Sikhs, a wing of the 5th Goorkhas, and two mountain guns. The ground to be covered by the attacking party was very extensive, and the progress of the troops was slow, owing to the nature of the ground and the determined resistance of the enemy. Night approached before the final assault could be made, and the importance of success was so great that General Roberts ordered the attack to be suspended for the night, the troops holding the ground they had gained, and he also made arrangements for renewing the attack yesterday. This he was enabled to do by the arrival of the Guides and the return of General Baker late at night. Accordingly yesterday morning General Baker marched, with 500 men of the 92nd Guide Infantry, 200 men of the 3rd Sikhs, the 5th Punjaub Cavalry, four mountain guns, and Craster's Battery, with orders to ascend the ridge, of which Taktishah is the culminating point from Benishaur, and aid Colonel Money by a strong flank attack. General Baker found the enemy in great force at and about the point of ascent, also on the ridge itself. A column of attack was immediately formed, two companies of the 92nd Highlanders, under Major White, leading the way, and advanced with the greatest determination, only halting occasionally for breath. The enemy receded before this steady advance, and would not wait the final assault. As the Highlanders approached the summit they streamed away, and Colonel Money occupied it unopposed a few minutes before the Highlanders could reach it. Meanwhile large numbers of the tribesmen and Sepoys who had spent the night in the neighbouring villages attacked General Baker's troops left at the foot of the heights and spread themselves over the country as far as Siahsung. These were not finally dispersed until General Baker was rejoined by the troops from the hills and until the cavalry were dispatched in several directions from Sherpur. In this service all the cavalry had an opportunity of distinguishing themselves. The Guide Cavalry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart, made two very effective charges. The city remained quiet, but the outskirts and General Baker's rear had to be cleared, the latter by some companies of the 5th Punjaub Infantry, for on the smallest success the population would have joined the insurgents. The combination against us, which is, doubtless, strong, and received some encouragement from the unfortunate event of Thursday, has met with a severe check from our successes yesterday, and will probably soon collapse, and the bodies still in arms against us will be promptly attacked and our future position improved by certain measures of severity and precaution which recent events have suggested. The troops are in excellent spirits and ready for any work."

The loss during last week in the various affairs up to Friday night were forty-two killed, of whom six were officers, and seventy-six wounded, of whom nine were officers. Among the officers killed are Hardy, R.H.A.; Batson, Hearsey, and Ricardo, of the 9th Lancers. The wounded officers were Cleland, Mackenzie, Chisholm, and Trower, of the 9th Lancers; Lieutenants Fasken and Cook, of the 3rd Sikhs; Colonel Fitzhugh and Major Cook, V.C., of the 5th Goorkhas; and Lieutenant Ferguson, of the 72nd Highlanders. On Saturday the additional losses were nineteen killed, including Captain Spens and Lieutenant Gaisford, 72nd Highlanders; eighty-eight wounded, including Captain Gordon, 92nd, Captain Battye, Guides, and Lieutenant Egerton, 72nd.

A despatch to the Viceroy from General Roberts on Sunday reported continuous fighting. The enemy were still advancing in great force, and General Roberts had decided to collect his forces within the Sherpur cantonment, giving up the heights above the city. General Gough, from Gundamuk, and General Arbuthnot, from Jellalabad, have been ordered up to Cabul. Reinforcements are being dispatched to replace the troops at these points, but it must be some days before any reinforcements can reach General Roberts. The brigades which he has ordered up to his support are at Gundamuk and Jellalabad, and comprise the 6th Carabineers, I Battery C Brigade R.H.A., 9th Foot, 51st Light Infantry, a mountain battery, the 10th Bengal Lancers, 24th, 39th, and 45th Native Infantry, 2nd and 4th Goorkhas; but it will be impossible to move these troops forward until reinforcements have arrived to take their places. However, the Sherpur cantonments are intrenched, and Sir F. Roberts has, or had, five months' supplies within them.

By the latest news to the hour of this writing, dated Wednesday evening from Calcutta, we learn that the telegraphic communication of the Indian Government with Cabul is interrupted near the Jugdullak Pass, between that city and Jellalabad; and General Gough reports that the tribes along that road are now obstructing his advance. Orders have been given to keep in India the 1st battalion of the 5th Regiment, the 59th, and the 73rd, which had received their leave to come home. The Queen has sent a message of approval and encouragement to the army in Afghanistan.

Our Illustratrations this week comprise a view of the Lahore gate of the Bala Hissar, the fortified precinct of Cabul; one of the interior of the late British Residency, from a sketch by Surgeon W. A. Simmonds, and one of a party of Afghan hillmen attacking a convoy, upon which they fire down from the rocks above the road.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

The resignations of M. Le Royer, the Minister of Justice, and M. Rene Goblet, under Secretary of State for the same department, were announced yesterday week in the *Journal Officiel*.

Both Chambers met on the 11th inst. In the Senate Marshal Canrobert made a personal explanation in reply to some recent attacks on the occasion of his re-election. He said that as a soldier and Marshal he had no right to be hostile to the Government, but owed obedience to the laws; and that though as a honest man he had a political opinion and cherished recollections of a family which had undergone many misfortunes, he enforced that opinion on none, and should not tolerate opposition to the Government under his orders as Marshal. He hoped the army would never meddle with politics; for if it ever did so, it would speedily destroy both itself and the country. He had been denounced as one of the *coup d'etat*, but he was wholly ignorant of the preparation or execution of that step, and so far from ordering the people on the boulevards to be fired upon, he stopped the firing. The firing was an absurdity, and no General would ever have ordered it. It was doubtless the work of young conscripts. The vote for a new professorship of the history of religions at the Collége de France was opposed by M. Laboulaye, but agreed to by 140 to 124; and after a discussion on Congregational schools, in which M. Jules Ferry denied that the Government made war against Catholicism, the Budget votes were completed. In the Chamber of Deputies M. Lepere submitted a vote of 5,000,000f. out of this year's surplus for the aid of the sufferers from the deficiency of the crops and the exceptional severity of the present winter. The proposition was discussed at once and adopted, with three dissentients. The Chamber of Deputies agreed last Saturday to the proposal for the rebuilding of the General Post Office at Paris. The Chamber also agreed to suspend the prosecution of M. Baudry d'Asson for his speech at the Legitimist banquet, and to a repayment of 64,000,000f. to the Bank of France out of the year's surplus; but rejected a proposal to pay 3,500,000f. to the bank as partial compensation for its enforced advance of 16,000,000f. to the Commune. The Budget Committee contended that the bank had received indirect compensation to the amount of 1,500,000f. per annum by a reduction of the bank-note stamp duty, and the Chamber adopted the view of the Committee. On Monday an unexpected question arose concerning Roumania in the Chamber, on M. Louis Legrand asking whether the Government were prepared to recognise its independence. M. Waddington reminded the House that it was the French Plenipotentiaries who were chiefly instrumental at Berlin in obtaining for Roumania an increase of territory in compensation for the loss of Bessarabia. She was now engaged with other Powers in negotiations which he hoped would soon end in the recognition of Roumanian independence. The Chamber subsequently voted the credit of 80,000,000f. asked for by the Government for the construction and repairing of country roads.

During the coming recess a new Cabinet will practically be formed, through the process of filling up the posts left vacant. Lockroy's interpellation of the Government on the subject of the amnesty was on Tuesday made in the Chamber of Deputies, and resulted in the "order of the day" being voted by 250 members against 50.

The French Society of Water Colour Painters opened on Wednesday evening an exhibition of oil paintings.

Baron de Bourqueney, a Grand Cordon of the Legion of Honour, and formerly Receiver-General of Finances, died a few days since at the age of eighty-eight. He was the brother of Count de Bourqueney, and Ambassador under the Empire, and the second French Plenipotentiary at the Congress of Paris in 1856.

M. Claude Etienne Minié, the inventor of the rifle which bears his name, died in Paris on Sunday. He was born in Paris in 1804, and took part as a private soldier in several campaigns in Algeria. His good conduct brought him promotion, and it was as captain in a battalion of chasseurs that he conceived the idea of improving the muskets used in the army. He became an instructor of musketry at Vincennes, and in this capacity introduced fresh changes into the construction of firearms. He retired in 1858.

SPAIN.

Last Saturday the King and Queen, while driving in the Atocha-street, at Madrid, met a priest, who was taking the last sacraments to a dying man. Their Majesties immediately alighted from their carriage and lent it to the priest, following on foot, amid the acclamations of the populace.

Señor Canovas del Castillo, the new Premier, gave explanations in the Chamber of Deputies, on the 11th inst., as to the causes of the recent Ministerial crisis. At the conclusion of his remarks the Constitutional minority asked for further information on the subject. Señor Canovas del Castillo stated that he was obliged to go to the Senate, but would return immediately in order to reply to the interpellation. Against this course the Constitutional Deputies protested, and considerable excitement arose, in the midst of which the President put on his hat and declared the sitting of the Chamber closed. All the groups of the Opposition have decided not to enter the House again until explanations have been given by Señor Canovas del Castillo. He declines to offer an apology, maintaining that he has not committed any breach of privilege. Delegates have been nominated by the Committee of the Senators and Deputies appointed at the recent meeting of the members of the Opposition to propose to the various sections of the Ministry a definite plan of action to be followed by them in the present difficult situation.

Bad news, it is stated, has been received from Cuba. The Minister of War has received the resignations of several Generals. The new Colonial Minister has, by telegraph, informed the Commander-in-Chief in Cuba that the Government will dispatch from Spain the means required to effect the complete suppression of the insurrection, and will also carry out the economical reforms in Cuba in such a manner as to reconcile all interests.

PORTUGAL.

A despatch received from Lisbon, dated Sunday, states that the King and the Royal family, with the Austrian Archduke Regnier and the Archduchess, have gone by rail to the ancient Palace of Villa Vicosa.

ITALY.

In Monday's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies Signor Baccarini, Minister of Public Works, brought in a bill to authorise extraordinary expenditure to the amount of 12,000,000 lire, for the purpose of immediately executing works of a local character in communes where the inhabitants are in a state of poverty. The Committee on the bill for increasing the military expenditure have approved the principle of the measure. Signor Villa, the Minister of Justice, in reply to a question with regard to the reported sale by the Vatican of the majolica collection at the Castelgandolfo Palace, said that the Government had ordered the seizure of the plates in question, considering that they had a full right to take that step.

Signor Depretis has been re-elected at Stradella.

GERMANY.

Count Schouvaloff arrived at Berlin on Thursday, the 11th inst., on his way to St. Petersburg. Early in the afternoon he was received by the Emperor, and subsequently paid a visit to the Crown Prince of Germany. The Count left Berlin early last Saturday morning on a visit to Prince Bismarck at Varzin.

Lord Dufferin, who spent Sunday and Monday with Prince Bismarck at Varzin, left Berlin on Monday night in company with Count Schouvaloff for St. Petersburg.

By a considerable majority, the Federal Council on Tuesday adopted the bill fixing the legislative period of the German Reichstag at four years, and providing that the Budgets for the Empire shall only be presented every two years.

In the Lower House of the Prussian Diet on the 11th inst. the resolutions were agreed to which the Committee had moved as a rider to the Railway Bill. Yesterday week the Railway Purchase Bill was read the third time in the form in which it passed the second reading. During the debate Herr Bitter, Minister of Finance, stated that he had no intention of going to the Dutch and English markets to obtain greater facilities for the sale of Prussian Consols. Prussia did not want that, for by taking such a course she would fall back into the class of States which did not find in their own country the strength to maintain their credit.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

The Austrian Army Bill was on Saturday last unanimously passed by the Upper House of the Austrian Reichsrath in the form in which it was originally presented by the Government.

The Hungarian Government on the 11th inst. introduced in the Lower House of the Diet a bill proposing to cover a portion of the deficit for 1880 by raising the sum of 14,000,000 fl. by the issue of 15,000,000 fl. of the 140,000,000 fl. of the Gold Rente, or by a partial issue of the same and the sale of the railway shares at present invested in the name of the Government. At yesterday week's sitting the Government stated that they had taken steps to relieve the sufferers by the inundations. A telegram from Pesth states that by the overflowing of the Körös several towns are laid in ruins, and the inhabitants have taken to flight. In the comitat of Behar 10,000 persons have been rendered homeless.

On Tuesday afternoon both Delegations met at Vienna for the first time, the Austrian at one p.m. and the Hungarian at six. The business in both was the election of the Presidents, the Bureaux, and the Committees. In the Austrian Delegation Chevalier Schmerling was elected President by thirty votes against Prince Czartoryski, who received twenty-nine. In the Hungarian Delegation Cardinal-Archbishop Haynald was unanimously elected President. Count Andrassy, the Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says, has, at his own request, been elected a member of the Hungarian Delegation, and proposes to support the Government policy in the Transleithan Delegations. In both Delegations the new Minister of Foreign Affairs presented the Estimates, which are within a fraction of the same amount as those voted for the current year—4,000,000 fl. for Foreign Affairs, 93,000,000 fl. for the Army, 8,000,000 fl. for the Navy; in all, together with pensions, the Ministry of Finance, and the Court of Accounts, 108,500,000 fl., or about £10,500,000.

RUSSIA.

Arrests continue to be made in St. Petersburg, and it is said that a person in custody was found to be in possession of a detailed plan of the Winter Palace. Several reports were

published last Saturday morning of a plot to destroy the life of the Czar by blowing up the Winter Palace at St. Petersburg. The Berlin correspondent of the *Standard*, however, is of opinion that the story has been concocted "for export purposes exclusively." Any one (the correspondent says) acquainted with the Winter Palace—a structure about three times as large as Buckingham Palace—would smile at the idea of the building being blown up except by enormous quantities of explosive material. In keeping with this amusing detail is the statement that the conspirators, humanely tempering rigour with leniency, gave the Emperor a chance of escape by suggesting the surrender of his authority to a Parliament. An authoritative statement which has been published at St. Petersburg asserts that the reports in some of the foreign newspapers that renewed attempts against the life of the Czar had been made or were in contemplation are partly gross exaggerations and partly absolute inventions. It is admitted, however, that in their search for the authors of the attempt to blow up the Emperor's train at Moscow the police have made numerous arrests leading to discoveries which point to the conclusion that fresh crimes are meditated by the Nihilist conspirators.

The *Daily News* publishes a letter from its special correspondent with the Russian expedition in Central Asia giving some further information respecting the defeat at Dengil Tepé. One indication of the loss of prestige which it has entailed has been shown by the capture of a convoy of more than forty camels by the enemy's cavalry only twenty versts from Tchikislar. A few days after the Russians fell back on Chatte the village of Avasi, near that place, was sacked and burned. More than 160 men and women were killed, and the children carried off as slaves.

ROUMANIA.

The bill for the purchase of the Roumanian railways by the State is being discussed by the Senate in committee.

On Sunday the Senate voted the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne by 31 votes against one.

AMERICA.

The House of Representatives at Washington have adopted a resolution for the appointment of a committee to consider matters relating to the projected interoceanic canal.

A telegram from Philadelphia states that General Grant arrived there on Tuesday morning, and was enthusiastically received. A long procession was formed to precede him to his residence. The day was observed as a holiday, and a grand banquet was to be given in his honour in the evening.

The ex-Confederate General William Mahone, leader of the Debt Readjustment party in Virginia, has been elected United States Senator for Virginia.

CANADA.

A telegram from Ottawa states that Mr. Hugh Nelson has been appointed a member of the Dominion Senate.

Intelligence received at Victoria, British Columbia, states that the Indians at Kamloops are much excited in consequence of several murders having been committed by half-breed outlaws. The Indians have barricaded themselves in a log-house, where they are besieged by settlers. A police force from Victoria has started for Kamloops. An Indian rising is apprehended.

SOUTH AFRICA.

News has been received from the Cape to Nov. 25. Moirosi's mountain was successfully stormed and taken on Nov. 20, after having been shelled for three days. The enemy's loss was great, and amongst the killed was Moirosi himself; he was shot through the neck, and his body was found in a cave. Our casualties were two whites wounded and two natives killed.

The attack on Secocoeni's stronghold was to take place on the 28th ult.

INDIA.

Lord Lytton was fired at by a drunken East Indian as he was riding into Calcutta on the evening of the 12th inst. Two shots were fired at his carriage and one at the carriage which followed. No one was hurt, and the assassin was arrested by the Viceroy's Staff. A Reuter's telegram states that he is a Eurasian, belonging to a respectable family, and was formerly in the Government employ. He had been recently discharged from the Allahabad Lunatic Asylum.

Particulars of the fighting with the tribes near Cabul are given in another column.

AUSTRALIA.

We learn through Reuter's agency that on the 10th inst. the Hon. James Watson, the Colonial Treasurer, made his financial statement in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly. After showing that the large accumulated surplus accruing from the revenue of previous years had been absorbed to the extent of £1,500,000 during the last Session for public works, comprising buildings of great general importance, such as had been formerly provided for by loans, he proceeded to state that there remained a balance of nearly £1,000,000, which it was proposed to reduce, by other works and services of a similar nature, to £600,000. The Treasurer next pointed out that in consequence of the temporary falling-off of the land sales, which he had not anticipated when making his last financial statement, there would be a diminution of income for 1879 of £200,000, which he proposed to charge against the remaining balance of the surplus of previous years. With regard to the revenue and expenditure for 1880, he estimated that the income would fall short of last year's receipts by £220,000, principally because a continued reduction of the sale of land by auction must be anticipated. To meet the deficiency and to provide for contingent and unforeseen charges, the Treasurer proposed to increase the direct and indirect taxation by over £400,000 annually, of which £350,000 would be received next year. A part of his scheme was to reimpose the stamp duties, which had been in operation for nearly ten years prior to 1875. There would be, however, a slight modification in these duties embodying the principle of an income tax in the form of stamped receipts, which would admit of expansion as the necessities of the State required increase of revenue. Mr. Watson further proposed to raise the duties in the present tariff as follows:—Spirits, 2s. a gallon; sparkling wines, 4s. a gallon; still wines, 1s. a gallon; manufactured tobacco, 6d., and leaf tobacco, 3d. a pound; all beer and porter, 3d. a gallon. The excise duties on tobacco manufactured in the colony would also be raised by 3d., and those on all kinds of beer and porter by 3d. a gallon. Apart from the falling-off in the land sales, the revenue was at present in a more healthy condition than could be expected, considering the depression in trade and commerce during the last two years. As a revival in trade was now taking place, he (Mr. Watson) felt justified in speaking hopefully of the future. The taxation in New South Wales was considerably less than in any other Australian colony. It was not the intention of the Government to float any portion of the last authorised loan for some time, as a balance of £1,200,000 of previous loans was still to be negotiated. The Treasurer concluded his statement by declaring that the cash balances standing to the credit of the Government, on all accounts, exceeded £3,000,000. Mr. Watson's speech and his financial proposals were favourably received by the House.

In consequence of the result of the vote in the Melbourne Legislative Assembly on the Constitutional Reform Bill, the Government have decided to abandon the measure, and have at the same time recommended the Governor to dissolve the Parliament. His Excellency has acquiesced.

The *Official Gazette* of Copenhagen publishes a Declaration, signed by the representatives of Great Britain and Denmark, providing for the mutual protection of trade marks.

Reports have reached Athens from Corfu that two Englishmen, who lately left the island for Epirus, have been captured by brigands, who demand a ransom of £4000.

Prince Charles has telegraphed to M. Gueschoff, the President of the Provincial Assembly of Eastern Roumelia, inviting him to accept a Ministerial post in Bulgaria.

A famine is reported to have broken out in the province of Van, in Armenia, and the inhabitants are emigrating. Subscriptions have been opened by the Patriarch for the sufferers.

Tuesday's *Gazette* contains the terms of the treaty concluded between Great Britain and the Swiss Confederation for the extradition of criminals.

News has reached New York by way of Colorado that a fight occurred on the 15th inst. between a hundred Apaches and a party of Mexicans from Chihuahua, in which eighty of the Indians were killed and wounded.

According to accounts given in Havannah newspapers which have been received at New York, the revolution in San Domingo has been successful; business was thriving, and heavy shipments of tobacco were being made to Germany.

The ship Norval, Captain Halliday, sailed from Plymouth yesterday week for Sydney with 386 emigrants, of whom there are 45 married couples, 86 single men, 124 single women, 50 boys, 36 girls, and 6 infants. There are 187 English, 20 Scotch, 177 Irish, and 2 foreigners.

The King of the Belgians, it is announced, again offers a prize of 25,000f. or £1250, open to writers of all nationalities, for an essay on "Means for the Improvement of Harbours on Low and Sandy Coasts," such as those of Belgium. Foreign writers must send in their essays to the Ministry of the Interior at Brussels on or before Jan. 1, 1881.

A mail for the Australian and New Zealand Colonies will be made up for dispatch by the Colonial Line steam-ship City of London, leaving Plymouth for Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney, on Monday next. Letters must be posted at the usual hour on Saturday, and must be specially directed per steam-ship City of London, viâ Plymouth.

News from the West Coast of Africa states that two towns were burned and destroyed by the British expedition which recently proceeded up the Niger. The expedition, which was under the command of Captain Burr, R.N., consisted of a force of bluejackets and marines and a detachment of Houssas. The good effect of the punishment (a telegram says) was stated to have been felt at once, as oil and produce were coming down the river in large quantities.

The Intelligence Branch of the Quartermaster-General's Department has issued two excellent maps—the one of Sekukuna's territory and the surrounding country; the other, upon a larger scale, of Secocoeni's territory, including the rugged range known as the Lulu Mountain. These maps are of great value and interest at the present time, when the next mail will probably bring news of the attack upon Secocoeni's fortress by Colonel Baker Russell's force.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* has received news that the Persian Government has decided to send an extraordinary mission to Europe, which is to proceed by way of Constantinople to Vienna, and thence to Berlin, Paris, and London, the object being to obtain a recognition of the Persian Attrek frontier, which is threatened by Russia. The Berlin correspondent of the *Standard* says that reinforcements are being constantly sent to Turkestan in preparation for the campaign to be begun early in the spring. The attack upon Merv, which was to have taken place this summer, is to be carried out as soon as the season permits.

POLITICAL.

The theory has been broached that the Dissolution of Parliament is near at hand because of the earlier issue than usual of certain Treasury notifications to expedite the preparation of the Estimates. A week o'ershadowed by the gloomy news of reverses at Cabul is hardly the time to give credence to the notion. It was officially notified in the *London Gazette* of Tuesday last that Parliament would assemble "for the dispatch of divers urgent and important affairs" on Thursday, Feb. 5 next; and, whatever, backstairs gossip may be published by oracular morning or evening prints, it appears pretty clear now that the Earl of Beaconsfield and his colleagues have resolved to ascertain the tone of St. Stephen's ere determining the date of their appeal to the country. Meantime, there are not lacking lively indications that the politically active constituencies have carefully weighed their representatives in the balance, and have formed a rough-and-ready idea of the real weight and value of their Parliamentary action. Hon. members who can stand the test of the rigid analysis of the great divisions of the present Parliament, published in the *Daily News* of Tuesday, may presumably feel sufficiently certain of the re-election their political fidelity entitles them to. But this seasonable list may not improbably make many backsliders shake uncomfortably in their shoes. It would be invidious to particularise these gentlemen, and it might, moreover, be deemed cruel when their sins are on the eve of finding them out.

The election of a member for Sheffield in the place of the late Mr. Roebuck on Monday next is looked forward to with more than local interest; but if Mr. Waddy, Q.C., should be chosen in preference to Mr. Wortley, and Alderman Sir Robert Carden should slip into his seat for Barnstaple, the balance of parties will be the same as regards the practical point of the division list. The polling at Donegal, on the other hand, has resulted in the gain of a seat for the Liberals, the late Conservative member, Mr. Wilson, having been succeeded by Mr. Lea, who had a majority of 683 over Mr. M'Corkell, the Conservative candidate. This apparent gain, however, has to be qualified by the proverbial uncertainty of the Irish vote in the House of Commons.

The unanimity with which the majority of Ministers have avoided war topics and turned to agriculture (the Duke of Richmond has followed the Marquis of Salisbury's example in this respect) may be regarded as so far satisfactory that it possibly indicates a willingness to turn the sword into the ploughshare. We must not halloo, however, until we are out of the wood of the forthcoming Conservative demonstration in the provinces. If Ministerial utterances at this meeting be as moderate in tone as the compact and sensible speech made by Mr. W. H. Smith on the 11th inst. at the Rev. G. Blencowe's Zulu lecture in Pimlico, it would be most in accord with the fitness of things. The First Lord of the Admiralty, whilst disclaiming Ministerial responsibility for the Zulu War, said it was undesirable we should extend our responsibilities in that part of the world, and repeated the Chancellor of the Exchequer's dictum that our colonial brethren must learn that they must, as a rule, depend upon themselves for defence against internal enemies. Albeit, Sir W. Hart Dyke, the Conservative whip, spoke of himself at Tunbridge on Tuesday as a "stormy petrel," he had not a word to say as to when the Dissolution wind would set in. Sir Wilfrid Lawson, addressing his constituents at Carlisle the same day in company with his colleague, Mr. Robert Ferguson, confidently said the issue of the Donegal election foreshadowed the result of the General Election. Speaking also on Tuesday in Dublin, Mr. Parnell (who leaves for the United States to-day) did not trouble himself on this point, but confined himself to bringing about a union of the Central Tenants' Defence Association with the Irish National Land League.

Mr. Walter approaches his Parliamentary duties in a manner so devoutly impartial that he may well have been astonished yesterday week, when his support of the Ministry met with marked disfavour at a Berkshire meeting at Newbury, and even his justification of his votes did not shake off a resolution of dissatisfaction with the representation of the county. Mr. Massey seemed to be far more at home with his constituents at Tiverton the same day, when the practical mind of Mr. Baxter was exercised at Brechin, by-the-way, on the land laws, in reforming which he advocated the abolition of primogeniture, the limitation of entail and settlement, and a cheap system of transfer. In Scotland, too, Professor Blackie, in the course of a lecture on Saturday, put his foot down, and stoutly said he would vote for the Conservatives if the Liberal Party sought to disestablish the Church of Scotland. Various election movements are afoot within the metropolitan radius, the most noticeable being a meeting of Mr. Boord with his Greenwich constituents on Monday, when he was accompanied by Baron Henry de Worms, the second Conservative candidate.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS.

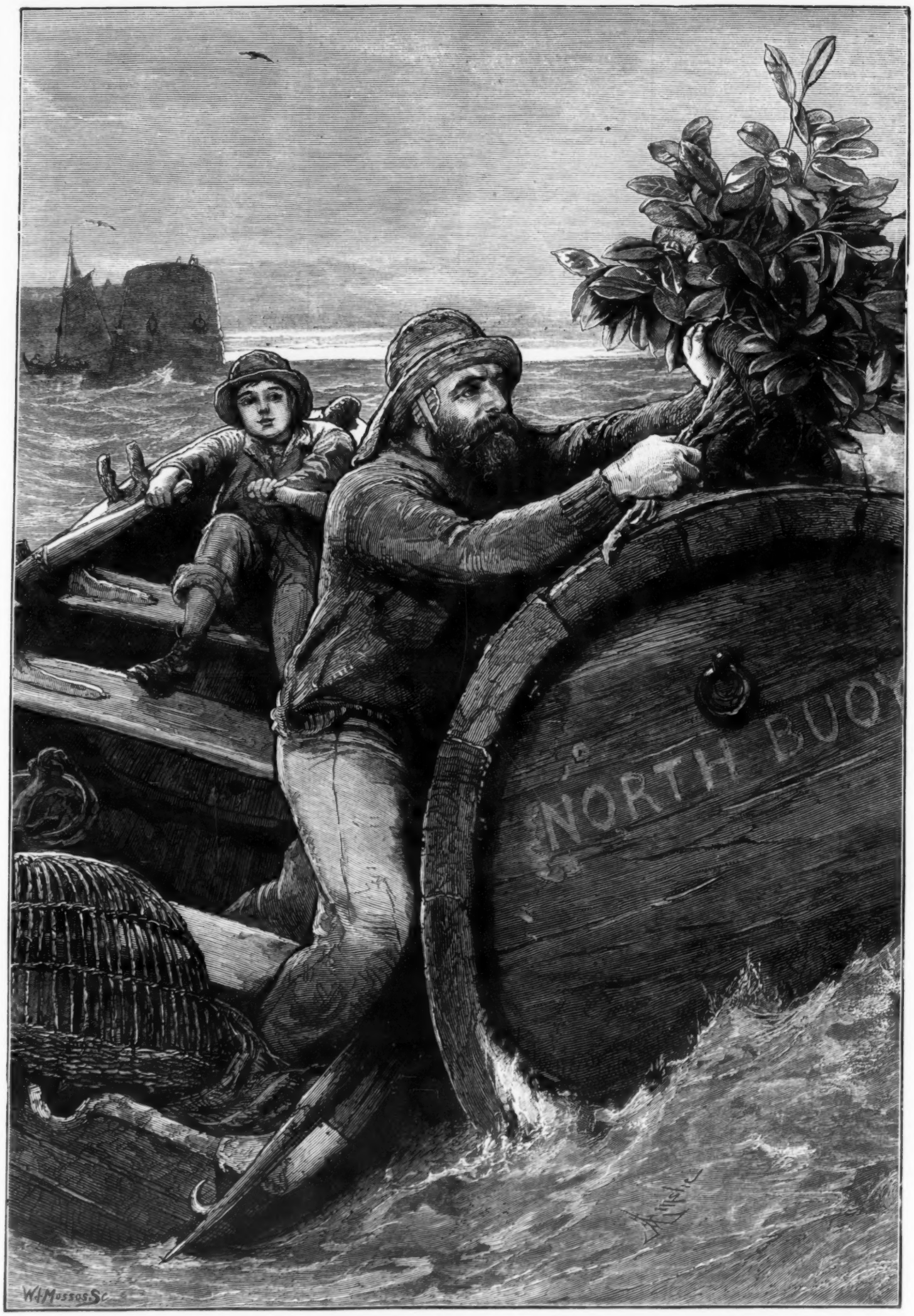
The two contrasted scenes of Morning and Night, Sea and Land, Outdoor and Indoor, rude and luxurious, manly and childish industry for the preparation of Christmas Festival Adornments have little else in common but that they might be supposed to occur on the same day of a cherished anniversary, the observance of which is equally popular with all classes of English folk. Indeed we may postulate, as an acknowledged condition of our social life, that Christmas Decorations are likely to find place at this season as well among the seafaring coast population as with the children, parents, and domestic servants of a comfortable family mansion.

DRESSING UP AN OLD BUOY.

It was not an Old Boy, but an Old Buoy—a wooden-headed fellow, who was, though of unsteady habits, and too often half-seas-over, still employed and allowed to keep his place, as a sort of sentinel, at the north entrance to a certain harbour in the Channel Islands. This rather doubtful character, with his rolling gait and frequent fits of bobbery among his nautical companions, did not claim any high degree of social respectability; but it was contrived by charitable neighbours on shore that he, too, should keep Christmas with the rest of them. He did not indeed go to Church that day, but stayed outside, like an old Heathen as he was, to worship Father Neptune with the Tritons and Mermaids and other Porpoises, when their congregation drew near from the misty offing. But there was a Missionary of Christmas observance who put forth to the seasonable reclamation of this bewildered outcast. It was Tom Tug, the harbour-master's boatman, accompanied by his son Little Jemmy, whose puny hands can already wield a pair of oars, if not making sea-way, at least so as to keep the boat close alongside of the Old North Buoy. Our Artist chanced to be a witness of this quaint and kindly performance. The honest alacrity of the good seaman, as he grappled his familiar customer, while fending off the boat with knee and elbow from harmful collision, was pleasant to see. It was a still and calm December morning, but the under-swell from the Atlantic lifted the Old Buoy and the small boat together, as if gently dandled in the lap of irresistible might. There was, to the mind of an unaccustomed landsman, something impressive and solemn in this peculiar situation. So the lonely old weather-beaten guardian of a safe channel for ships that would sail or steam that way received his Christmas greeting, with a garland of evergreen laurels to crown his rugged brow, looking forth on the Bay of Biscay and the Western Ocean.

DRESSING UP THE BLACK OLD BOY.

In the large household establishment of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob St. Vincent, who came to England with £250,000 from sugar-planting or trading and money-dealing in the West Indies, old Peter, the favourite negro footman, always held a privileged place. He had lived sixty-eight years, from the date of his birthday in the old times of legal slavery, a faithful dependent on the family of his present master, whose father, the late Sampson St. Vincent, of Muscovado Vale, in Trinidad, reared this valuable black human chattel from a well-assorted pair of bond-servants on that estate. Peter's mother, a fine healthy young woman, having been the wet-nurse by whose assistance Master Jacob's pining infancy was kept alive, it was not unnatural that, as Mr. Jacob grew up to a prosperous manhood, there should be a kindly mutual attachment between Peter and his respectable master. The era of colonial slave emancipation passed over their heads, altering the relations of a million other negroes, male and female, both field hands and house servants, to their former proprietors, some of whom, in spite of large pecuniary compensation, professed themselves ruined by the change. Peter, then a fine strong young man, but still called a "boy," as is customary with negro personal attendants, remained quite unconscious of his new social rights as a free citizen, or at least perfectly indifferent to the opportunity he now had of going out into the world to shift for himself. He never thought of leaving Mr. Jacob, nor did Mr. Jacob and Mrs. Jacob, herself the daughter and heiress of a wealthy planter, ever think it possible that honest Peter could wish to leave them. And so it has come to pass, now that the rich West Indian family have removed its abode to Porchester-terrace, Bayswater, the good old black "boy" is still an inmate of their comfortable London house. The pretty little Miss, their only child, who from her babyhood has loved Peter as dearly as sweet Eva St. Clare loved her worthy "Uncle Tom," in Mrs. Stowe's most touching story, is determined that Peter shall accept a Christmas gift from her hands, to ornament his person as he waits at the dinner-table. He is busied with his twofold office, as footman and butler, aided by the London housemaids, to set the glasses and bottles in readiness, while his mistress is coming down stairs to look after some final preparations for her expected party of guests. This is the moment when good little Marie St. Vincent, calling her old negro friend and servant, who would kiss the stool that raises her feet to enable her to reach him, is about to fasten a beautiful bouquet of flowers in the breast of his livery coat. Here is a pleasing example of Christmas Decorations, with a touch of that kindly good nature that "makes the whole world kin."



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: CHRISTMAS MORNING. SEE PAGE 571.

DRAWN BY A. R. EMSLIE

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: CHRISTMAS NIGHT.—SEE PAGE 571.

DRAWN BY C. GREGORY.

ILLUSTRATED CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

No gift of the Christmas or New-Year season of friendly tokens and graceful presents would be more acceptable, to any young lady who cultivates the taste for poetry and the charming accomplishment of singing, than the volume issued by Messrs. C. Kegan Paul and Co., which we are about to mention. It is *Songs from the Published Writings of Alfred Tennyson, Poet Laureate*, set to music by various composers. The editor, Mr. W. G. Cusins, has performed his office with discriminating care and knowledge of the composer's and musician's art. Ten of the forty-five songs here presented have already been given to the world, in company with their music, by Messrs. Novello, Boosey and Co., Stanley Lucas, Weber and Co., L. Cock, and J. Williams, the publishers. Thirty-five are new and original, having been composed expressly for this occasion. Among the contributors to these are Sir Julius Benedict, M. Gounod, Herr Joachim Raff, Signor Ciro Pinsuti, Messrs. Arthur Sullivan, G. A. Macfarren, H. Leslie, W. G. Cusins, J. L. Hatton, and others of good repute. The music is all written in the treble clef: only a few pieces have been set as part-songs. No lady's drawing-room should be without this delightful volume, close beside her indispensable pianoforte.

An interesting topographical subject is treated with an historical and descriptive commentary by Mr. Andrew Lang, M.A., late Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford. It is no less than *Oxford*, the town and the University, which theme is worthy beyond question of the publication (by Messrs. Seeley, Jackson, and Halliday) that now claims our notice. This combines Mr. Lang's pleasantly written chapters, in about sixty folio pages, with ten fine etchings, by Kent-Thomas, Brunet-Debaines, and Toussaint, and fifteen vignette engravings, which represent picturesque views of the old Colleges and their precincts, and some of the churches and streets of Oxford. The text alone is quite deserving of a separate perusal: the etchings have much artistic merit, being equal to those which generally appear in the *Portfolio*, under Mr. P. G. Hamerton's direction.

The translation, by Mr. C. Rollin-Tilton, of that entertaining traveller Edmondo de Amicis on *Morocco, its People and Places*, published by Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin, forms a handsome volume, with a large number of wood engravings from the original French designs. It is full of lively and piquant descriptions, moving figures, and groups of men and women and beasts, very different from those of any European country, with habits, manners, and sentiments of a genuine Oriental character, the romantic diversity of which is rather stimulating to our starved fancy in this age of monotonous and uniform Western civilisation. Signor De Amicis, whom we believe to be a Piedmontese, unites some of the Italian with French literary talents in his agreeable, forcible, animated vein of light narrative and discourse upon what he sees in foreign lands. His frank cheerfulness, as well as the quickness of his observation, makes him a very pleasing writer. The illustrations are of corresponding vivacity and power.

The same publishers offer, to the lovers of contemporary art-studies, a newly-opened range of critical and biographical disquisition, that which deals with *American Painters*, by the pen of Mr. G. W. Sheldon. Some forty of these artists, from Frederick E. Church, Sanford Gifford, and Bierstadt, to Asher Durand, Appleton Brown, Alexander Wyant, and others probably of high merit in their different ways, are here introduced. We recollect having seen pictures by Church and Bierstadt at South Kensington Exhibitions; but most of those just named are known to us only by report, and by the fine engravings in this new book, which comes to England from Messrs. Appleton and Co., of New York. It is, in some respects, the most interesting work upon a national school of art, more especially of landscape-art, that we have lately received. Mr. Sheldon has a noble appreciation of the genius and spirit of all these true masters of the interpretation of nature's beauty and sublimity in their own vast and glorious Western land. He writes of them and their subjects, without any "spread-eagle" flights of exaggeration, with perfect soberness and earnestness, but with a generous sympathy which his readers can hardly resist. His instructive explanations of their technical methods, of the drawing and colouring, and of the peculiar effects of atmosphere, light, and vegetation in that country; the characteristics of its scenery, for instance, on the shores of the Hudson, in the Adirondacs, and in many woodland, mountain, lake, and riverside places, will gratify the intelligent mind. There is equal good taste and right feeling in his accounts of the personal history of the American living artists. The illustrations, which are very finely drawn, engraved, and printed, to the number of eighty-three, present two specimens of each painter, for the most part, though in a few instances but one example; and these are quite sufficient to justify the writer's commendation of their works.

We have, upon former occasions, expressed our sincere approval of Cassell's *Magazine of Art, Illustrated*, the volume of which is now before us. Its contents are of an entertaining variety; but all contributing to a general and comprehensive acquaintance with the arts of design, both pictorial and decorative, the lives and works of those who practise them, especially in England and in the United States, and the available subjects and materials. The wood-engravings are in great plenty and of good quality. A work of substantial value, in which the study of natural history is presented, though by a strict scientific method, under a very attractive aspect, has been lately issued by Messrs. Cassell. It is *Animal Life, Described and Illustrated*, by Dr. E. Perceval Wright, Professor of Botany at the Dublin University and sometime Lecturer on Zoology there. His accounts of zoological classification, and the precise connotation of distinctive features in every species, follow the course of the best manuals for advanced students, but are frequently accompanied by lively extracts from the narratives of observant travellers and other naturalists, illustrative of the habits of animals. The volume is complete in itself, consisting of more than six hundred pages, one third part of which is devoted to mammalia, above two hundred pages to birds, reptiles, and fishes, and the remainder to insects, mollusca, and the lower or simpler forms of animal life. There are engravings, fairly drawn, on almost every page. This work is of a higher scope than the Rev. J. G. Wood's "Illustrated Natural History," published five years ago by Messrs. Routledge, which has its merits as a popular compilation. *Science for All*, edited by Dr. Robert Brown, is a volume also published by Messrs. Cassell, to which many competent authors have furnished brief explanations of physical, astronomical, geological, and other natural phenomena, assisted by copious illustrations.

That renowned weekly issue, *Vanity Fair*, of characteristic grotesque or burlesque portraits of our notable contemporary personages, converts itself, at Christmas, into a volume called *The Vanity Fair Album*. The eleventh of such volumes, which is now before us, leads off with a good portrait of Mr. Gladstone, and contains those of twenty or thirty other statesmen, or members of Parliament, with Marshal MacMahon and M. Jules Grévy, late and present heads of the French Republic, Prince Napoleon and M. Louis Blanc, and with about twenty Englishmen and Frenchmen whose social distinction is owing to other than political exertions. Among the last-mentioned are Victor Hugo, Ernest Rénan, Alexandre Dumas, Gounod, Mr. Herbert Spencer, and several officers lately commanding in the Zulu War. Mademoiselle Sarah Bernhardt is the solitary "woman of genius." The accompanying notices, by "Jehu Junior," are generally flippant, vulgar, and offensive—not less offensive in the patronising tone of praise, than in their silly affectation of scorn for those whom this literary "Pyke or Pluck" has not the sense or the heart to understand.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

The Earl of Beaconsfield has written to the Lord Mayor to say that he will have pleasure in allowing his name to be added to the Sir Rowland Hill Memorial Committee.

The directors of the London and Westminster Bank will recommend to the proprietors, at the meeting in January, the registration of this bank as a limited company under the powers of last Session's Act.

Yesterday week at the meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works, upon the application of the Sunday-School Union, a site upon the Victoria Embankment was granted for the erection of a statue to the memory of Robert Raikes, the founder of Sunday schools.

An important, though not highly respected, limb of the law—one of its executive—is dead. John Calcraft, for many years the executioner at Newgate and Horsemonger-lane Gaols, died last Saturday evening. He was born in 1800, and was by trade a shoemaker.

The sale of the valuable and extensive library (first portion) of the late Dr. Laing, of Edinburgh, was concluded yesterday week by Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge, at their rooms, Wellington-street, Strand; the eleven days' sale realising £13,288.

The memorial recommending the London School Board to secure the full services of its chairman, by the payment to him of a salary as provided for under the Education Act, has already received a large number of influential signatures. The memorial lies for signature at the offices of Mr. Edmund Johnson, 1, Castle-street, Holborn.

A continuation of the Saturday Evening Free Lectures at the Society of Arts, John-street, Adelphi—viz., a lecture on Shakspeare's "Merchant of Venice," by Mr. Francis Storr, B.A., was given last Saturday evening. The next lecture is by Sir Arthur Hobhouse, on "The Social and Political Condition of India."

At a meeting of the Statistical Society at King's College on Tuesday night a paper upon the value of money was read by Mr. R. H. Patterson. He considered that the value of money had increased, and the scarcity of gold would make itself felt on a return to prosperity in trade. Mr. T. Brassey, M.P., occupied the chair. A discussion followed.

At the invitation of Baroness Burdett-Coutts, nearly 500 cabmen, coachmen, and carters, and their wives, sat down to tea at Tolmer's-square Institute, near Euston-road; and were afterwards addressed by Colonel Burdett, Bishop Claughton, Colonel Sir E. Henderson, the Rev. Arthur Hall, and others, on the duty of the kind treatment of animals.

The weekly return of metropolitan pauperism shows that the total number of paupers on the last day of the first week in December was 89,789, of whom 46,673 were in workhouses, and 43,114 received outdoor relief. Compared with the corresponding weeks in the years 1878, 1877, and 1876, these figures show an increase of 7611, 7801, and 6980 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 717, of whom 550 were men, 140 women, and 27 children.

Another step has been made in the progress of electric light. On Monday night the Victoria station of the Metropolitan District Railway was brilliantly illuminated by ten electric lights, replacing twenty gas lamps which had previously only dimly lighted the station. The important point connected with the experiment is that these electric lights are maintained by the same engine and apparatus which, stationed at Charing-cross, subserve the purposes of forty lights on the Embankment and ten on Waterloo Bridge.

At a recent meeting of the Chapter of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, at St. John's-gate, Clerkenwell, it was unanimously resolved to confer the medal awarded by the Order for deeds of gallantry in saving life on land on Mr. Arthur H. Stokes (one of her Majesty's sub-inspectors of mines), Charles Maltby, John Hancock, Thomas Davis, and John Davis, for their brave conduct in rescuing in July last Dennis Bagshaw, who was imprisoned for five days by a sudden fall of "shale," or old workings, from the roof of the Black Engine Mine, Eyam, near Sheffield.

Seeing so much distress amongst the poor this inclement weather, the Consolidated Soup and Food Company, 23, Castle-street, Finsbury, have arranged to give, gratuitously, about 1000 gallons of soup to deserving charities. They will be ready to send it out on Monday next, 22nd inst., and the two following days. Application should be made at once by clergymen, and secretaries of institutions, either personally or by letter, so that they may inquire into each case, and apportion the quantity to their requirements.

The Amateur Orchestral Society, of which the Duke of Edinburgh is president, will give their first concert of the season in the Albert Hall this (Saturday) evening, in aid of the funds of the German Hospital at Dalston. Besides several orchestral performances by the society, there will be solos by Miss Minnie Hauk, Madame Norman-Néruda, Mdlle. Marie Breidenstein, Herr Henschel, and Mr. Charles Hallé. Sir Julius Benedict will preside at the piano. The concert will be under the patronage of the Prince of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, and the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, who have promised to be present on the occasion.

The general meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society was held on the 11th inst. at the society's house, Hanover-square, under the presidency of the Duke of Bedford. Referring to the success attending the competition for the society's scholarships and certificates, the council in their report expressed a belief that if masters of schools were aware of the advantages offered by the society to scholars there would be a more general attempt in country schools to teach the principles of agriculture. It was stated that good work had been done by the society's laboratory during the year in detecting adulterations in feeding stuffs and manures.

The Westminster scholars, according to ancient custom, presented their annual Latin comedy on Thursday week, the piece selected for the present year being the "Trinummus" of Plautus. It was repeated on Tuesday and Thursday this week.—Doctors' Day at the Merchant Taylors' School was on Tuesday celebrated in the customary manner, and in the evening the company dined together in their hall in Threadneedle-street, Lord Chelmsford, Lord Hampton, and Sir Henry Drummond Wolff being amongst their guests.—The St. Paul's School Choral Society gave on Tuesday evening its annual concert, in the presence of a large number of ladies and gentlemen. The Dulwich College concert will be given next Monday.

WINTER EVERGREENS.

With the musical cry of "Holly, holly, O!" that now is heard in our southern suburbs, comes the hearty one also of "Winter evergreens," telling, as it told in the time of Gay—who wrote, "when they are bawl'd through all the town, then judge the festival of Christmas near"—that the end of the year is now at hand. The winter evergreens that then were sold were holly and ivy, fir-boughs and laurel, which still continue to be brought round to us, the latter being emblematic of peace and festivity—"now with bright holly all the temples strow, with laurel green and sacred mistletoe." In these more modern days, however, mistletoe—for obvious reasons, as its use has changed—is no longer in favour for church decoration.

The decking of houses at Christmas, with, as Stowe said, "whatever the season of the year afforded to be green," is, as we know, an ancient custom; and the legendary lore connected with it is so familiar to most of us that it need not here be dwelt on. The holly is, of course, in chief request, through the glow of its scarlet berries, and many writers make allusion to it. Thus, Evelyn, when recording with pride that long holly hedge of his at Say's Court, speaks of it as "blushing with its corals," and says, "we still dress up both our churches and houses on Christmas Day with its cheerful green and its rutilant berries;" and in a carol which is in the Harleian MSS. we read, "holly hath berries as red as any rose;" and it is the cheery influence of this very brightness—contrasting, as it often does, with the brilliant white of the snow surroundings—that makes the holly so welcome at this time of year. "What," asks Southey, "when bare and wintry woods we see, is then so cheerful as the holly-tree;" and his last wish is, "that in my age as cheerful I might be, as the green winter of the holly-tree." Holly and ivy have long held their sway, in cottage and in hall. "Even the poorest cottage," says Irving, "welcomed the festive season with decorations of holly;" and Scott describes the baronial hall as "dressed with holly green." So, too, George Wither, in the carol he wrote in the seventeenth century—"Each room with ivy-leaves is drest, and every post with holly;" while Wordsworth, alluding to its use in churches, says of them—"Green with fresh holly, every pew a porch."

Some writers, misled by the mistaken bracketing in books of the word "holme" with "evergreen-oak," have affirmed that the holly was not in use in olden days; but "holme" was, in fact, then the name that the holly went by, and the evergreen oak, as we know it now, had nothing to do with holly. At Candlemas it is the custom to remove all the Christmas decorations in houses and in churches. "Down with the holly, ivie, all, wherewith ye drest the Christmas hall;" "for," as Herrick goes on to say, "how many leaves there be, so many goblins you shall see;" and, with respect to churches, there are but few country parishes without this superstition—that "where a leaf or a berry is left in a pew on Candlemas Day there will be a death that year in the family who there sat in it." The name "holly" is, it is asserted, but a corruption of "holy" tree, and that it was so called from its use in churches.

The holly is common throughout the Midland districts and in many other parts of England, and some of the largest clusters of it are to be found in Staffordshire, at Medwood Park, and in Warwickshire, at Sutton; the trees growing in the latter locality being of immense size, and therefore almost berryless; for hollies, to berry well, have to be kept within certain bounds, or their flowers, which are white and waxen, will not show in April.

Of cultivated hollies, the named varieties now number 200, and it is said that there is not a bad one amongst them—whether of the red, the white, or the yellow-berried, the gold or the silver, the edged or the blotched, the hedgehog sort or the laurel-leaved. The best, however, of the scarlet kinds, are the Minorca and the Fœmina, which are handsome trees, and berry profusely; and next to those, Shepherd's, the Grecian, the Madeira, and the Scotch; whilst, of the yellow-berried sorts, the finest are the Lutea and the Flava. A curious kind is the one called Tortuous, and the best of the variegated is the Golden Queen; though there are others almost as beautiful—namely, the Painted Lady, the Milkmaid, and the Silver Queen. There are also some weeping hollies—the prettiest of which is the Pendula variegata—and some small ones that are suited for rockeries. The holly, like most things, has its uses; for its leaves, boiled down to make "holly tea," have been found to relieve the gout, and an infusion of the bark has cured intermittent fever; whilst the wood is selected by turners for divers purposes. It is also, being of an ivory-white, when peeled, extensively employed in the manufacture of "Tunbridge ware," and when dyed it will pass for ebony; its branches supply materials for sticks and whips, and birdlime is made from their glutinous substance; and though no shrubs are more exempt than the holly from insects, the caterpillar of that beautiful butterfly, the azure-blue, finds in its tough leaves its choicest food.

With our Christmas holly we want ivy, too; as, apart from the time they have so long been associated, there is no better addition to the scarlet berries than linking lengths of ivy; especially if, amongst the common kind, trailers from the woods of the wild "ground" sort are here and there interspersed. Of this small sort there is but one kind, but of the larger ivy there are many varieties grown—thirty, or more—both plain and variegated; and, as the latter include some that are striped or margined with a golden-yellow, or a creamy-white, their sprays add greatly to the leafy beauty of Christmas garlands. Most ivies are of quick growth, but the quickest is the large-leaved Irish. So far from making houses damp, as most folks think, ivy—which Loudon says is "the one and only thing that should be placed against them"—will keep them dry, the rain-drops falling from its glossy leaves; and this the birds well know, as they can nestle there in the wettest weather, and have a snug, warm place to sleep in. Ivy is eagerly eaten by sheep—and mistletoe too—and old shepherds have a liking for its branches in the fold. Its flowers do not show till the autumn, when, unlike the holly, it forms a happy hunting-ground for the Quaker and the Carpet moths, and a multitude of insects; wasps, too, and oftentimes, "a lonely bee, long roving here and there to find a flower," who are then attracted by the store of honey that is to be found in the nectaries of its pale-green blooms. The berries, on which so many birds feed, do not, however, ripen till the following spring, when the dulcet song of the black-cap, on his return here in April, will very soon tell of their whereabouts.

Ground-ivy, which blossoms in April, is used in the country for coughs and colds; and the leaves of the larger kind are of service for the eye, the ear, and the chest, and—following the advice of Gerarde—"for weak and aching backs." In Germany they were used as a preventive against the wasting away of children, and an extract from the berries, and a gum from the stalks, have also been credited with beneficial properties; and the latter, as the leaves, too, forms the basis, in England, of a "certain cure for corns;" and ivy-berries, crushed to powder, were given, in vinegar, during the great plague in London, with advantage, it is said, to those who were affected. The leaves bitter ale, and improve its flavour, a fact, it is reported, some brewers are aware of. In ivy there is always a charm; whether clinging "to withered tree, to old, grey stone,"

greening with its beauty—as at Horton and at Isleworth—the grey church towers, or massing into majesty such ruins as Kenilworth, where it holds the stone together, and serves to link the memories of the past.

"A Christmas Day, without a mistletoe, is most unlucky." So runs the rural saying in those districts where most farmhouses are, and where "the bush" invariably hangs all the year between the hams and flitches. As the mistletoe is found chiefly on apple-trees, its growth is greatest in the cider counties. Next to the apple, it grows most on the poplar, where its bunches show like the nest of some monster bird; and it also is found on the pear and the willow, as well as on the maple, the ash, the thorn, and the lime, on which—by squeezing the bruised berries within the bark—it readily can be propagated. In Scotland the mistletoe—as holly and ivy, in America—is almost unknown. In France it is most abundant on the almond-tree; and in Spain, and about Jerusalem, it infests the olive. Its use with us is confined to Christmas customs; but a few centuries ago its branches were carried on New-Year's Day, by young men and maidens, from house to house, as a seasonable gift of friendship; and at the present day the same custom obtains in some parts of France. Bird-lime is generally made from the holly, but it can also be made from the mistletoe berries, those berries so dear to blackbirds, fieldfares, and thrushes; and it is the larger species of the latter bird—the missel thrush—that is credited with the cause of the increase of its growth on trees. The wood, and the leaves of it, have both been used in the treatment of epilepsy and convulsive diseases, but they are not so used at the present day. As the mistletoe absorbs, as a parasite, the sap of the tree it grows on, it is not liked by those dwelling in cider districts, who say of an orchard where that plant abounds, "There is too much mistletoe in it for it to do much good."

In the time of the Druids, mistletoe—called "all heal"—grew on the oak, and it was from that tree they always cut it; but now, to find it growing there is a very rare thing indeed—so rare, that such oaks have the name given them of "mistletoe oaks," and there are, if we mistake not, but eight such oaks in England, of which the three finest are in Herefordshire—at Tedstone Delamere, in the forest of Deerfold, and at Eastnor Park. Then, there is one near Plymouth, and one in Surrey—at Burningfold Farm, Durnsfold; and the other three are to be found, respectively, at Frampton-on-Severn, in Gloucestershire; at Sudbury Park, Chepstow, and at Hackwood Park, Basingstoke; and those, we believe, complete the list.

The supply of English holly for the London markets is chiefly derived from Kent; but a good deal of it comes from Guildford, as also mistletoe; and in a profuse year a large quantity of it is obtained from the apple-orchards of Worcestershire, Herefordshire, and Gloucestershire, though the greater part of what is grown there is, after supplying the home county towns, sent off to Birmingham, Liverpool, and Manchester. Holly, on the spot, is sold very cheaply, and hence the profit to the retailer well repays his trouble. The average price at market in an ordinary season is for common holly from 6d. a bundle to £5 per ton; and for variegated from 5s. to 6s. per bundle to £20 per load. Mistletoe fetches from 6d. a branch to £6 per ton, though a well-berried, handsome bush will sell at 10s. The foreign holly comes from the orchards of Normandy and Brittany, and it is also sent from the Channel Islands, Guernsey and Jersey. The largest lots go to the Borough Market and to Covent Garden, and are thence distributed. The winter evergreens are supplied from the cuttings of suburban shrubberies; the ivy, from gardens; and the "Christmas-trees," from fir-plantations, and from the London nurserymen. Holly this year is well berried. Let us hope its coral will soon shine on happy faces; and, though the passing year has been a long and dreary one, and winter comes thus early, yet, as Cowper says, "let the months go round, a few short months, and all shall be restored." Then, leaves will unfold again, and flowers merge on "from bud to beauty."

SHELSLEY BEAUCHAMP.

NEW BOOKS.

Obstacles, even impossibilities, never stop translators, and one cannot be surprised, therefore, at the feat performed in *The Odyssey of Homer*, done into English prose by S. H. Butcher, M.A., and A. Lang, M.A. (Macmillan and Co.), for the pair of excellent scholars have at least given themselves a chance of telling "that half of the truth" about Homer which consists in the bare interpretation of his words, without any attempt to reproduce the magic of his numbers, and which the interpreters who employ verse for their purpose cannot possibly convey, without modification or amplification, or even travesty, whilst they sing his song to a measure unknown and uncongenial to his muse. There are some excellent remarks upon this point in the preface with which the translators introduce their work. As for the translation itself, what can be said? It is the old story of mingled success and failure; some passages so excellent as to be beyond praise, some not only unsatisfactory, but, to speak with proper deference and under correction, misrendered to an extent which would be surprising in a schoolboy. Yet, where there is so much evidence of a general superiority, it would savour of petty hypercriticism to dwell upon small details. Attention, however, may be drawn, by way of example, to that passage in the Sixth Book, where Odysseus is likened to a hungry lion, driven by the needs of his belly "to make assay upon the flocks, even within a close-penned fold," as the translators have it, whereas the meaning clearly is that, as the words in the ordinary sense imply, the wild beast would be so reckless in his extremity that he would attempt to run down his prey, even within the walls of a homestead, as famine-stricken wolves will do in our day. The whole point is lost by the translators' version, which, moreover, necessitates a forced and unusual interpretation of a common word. There is another passage, in the Twenty-second Book, where Athene assumes the appearance of a swallow, which seems to have been even more erroneously taken. What, however, are a few blemishes among so many beauties? And what matters it, when the performance, as a whole, is so good, if, as at the ninth line of the First Book, "but" be persistently given as the equivalent of a certain word which clearly requires rather something expressive of consequence or resumption. As for the constant epithets, as they may be called, the epithets, that is, which recur over and over again in connection with the names of persons, and which appear to be as merely conventional as our own, when we speak of a "noble" lord, or an "honourable" member, or a "learned" counsel, or a "venerable" archdeacon, they are, no doubt, among the greatest difficulties encountered by translators of Homer, but they need not cause any more hesitation on the ground of their apparent inapplicability under certain circumstances than is exhibited by the newspaper reporter who, undeterred by incongruity, has no scruple about announcing that "the 'reverend' gentleman was fined five shillings for being drunk," when, as occasionally happens, so great a misfortune overtakes a clergyman who has, or is believed to have, been previously overtaken by liquor.

Among the works which the late Afghan war has brought forth, none is more important or valuable than the reprint of Major-General Sir Vincent Eyre's little book entitled "The Kabul Insurrection of 1841-42." During that terrible campaign the author was a Lieutenant of Artillery, and went through all the trying scenes in Kabul itself, as well as the horrors of the Khoord Kabul massacres. He was there wounded, and became one of the prisoners of Akbar Khan, and had to undergo months of suspense with our other unfortunate countrymen, never knowing at what moment their lives might be sacrificed. But Sir Vincent Eyre has lived to earn a high reputation for gallantry by his rescue, during the Indian Mutiny, of a number of civilians who were shut up in the now famous "House of Arrah." They had been beleaguered for some days by a large band of mutineers; and when Eyre heard of it he made a movement with a mere handful of troops, and defeated the enemy, thus saving the lives of about seventy Europeans from certain death. Sir Vincent has retired from the service, and Messrs. Allen and Co. prevailed on him to undertake a new edition of his book, in which he has been assisted by Colonel Malleson, who now fills the place left vacant by Sir John Kaye as the historian of India. The original edition of this book was the first record of the events written by a military man, and one who had performed a part in them; hence its claims to faithfulness. When Akbar Khan carried off his prisoners, after the dreadful massacres of the Khoord Kabul and Jugdulluk, he led them to Badiábád, in the district of Lughman, where they were kept three months. At this place the supply of stationery was small, but the author managed to jot down an account of events while they were still fresh in his memory, and where he could correct details by a reference to his fellow-prisoners, all of whom had been actors in the scenes. From this explanation it will be seen that the account possesses a high claim to accuracy, and something of the quality of a special correspondent's letters from having been all but written on the spot. It was sent down along with Lady Sale's Journal to General Pollock, who had by that time reached Jellalabad. He forwarded the MS. to England, where it was published, and Sir Robert Peel, who delivered some speeches in Parliament on the Afghan war of that time, made long extracts from it. The authenticity and historical character of this book will thus be understood. Anyone wishing to get an account of the first Afghan war, of a handy size and in a readable form, will find it here. Sir Vincent can use the pencil as well as the pen; and a sketch made by him of the Khoord Kabul appeared in the *Illustrated London News* during the late Afghan war. An outline sketch of this subject is given with the work, as well as a view of the city of Cabul, from a sketch by the author.

Amateur theatrical performances have long been a favourite amusement, and they are best managed by the organisation of regular acting clubs. One of the most eminently successful of these institutions is the "University Amateur Dramatic Club" of Cambridge, founded in 1835 by Mr. F. C. Burnand, B.A., of Trinity College in that University, who has since won a good share of popular favour by his literary contributions both to the press and to the stage, for the gratification of the general English public. Mr. Burnand has been induced, at the approach of the twenty-fifth anniversary of its foundation, to gather up his records and personal reminiscences of the early doings of "*The A. D. C., Camb.*," with continuation to the Lent Term of 1864, in a very pleasant and amusing volume, of which Messrs. Chapman and Hall are the publishers. It may serve as a really useful guide, in many details of management, to others who may undertake the formation or direction of societies of this kind, especially among the members of colleges and public schools, or those of military garrisons, or any local community of gentlemen brought into mutual acquaintance by their official or professional duties. We heartily wish that all such Dramatic Clubs, great and small, wherever a company of educated Englishmen can be found to engage in them, may be animated by the spirit of thorough good-fellowship which Mr. Burnand's lively pages reflect at the present reading.

In *Alice, and other Fairy Plays for Children* (Sonnenschein and Allen) Mrs. Freiligrath Kroeker has happily solved the problem of transferring Mr. Lewis Carroll's unique humour and fancy from the closet to the stage. "Alice in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking-Glass" have been skilfully blended into a single play without damage to any of the familiar favourites in the action of either story, and, with the addition of capital illustrations and music, the success is perfect. The other miniature dramas in the volume are equally well adapted for the juvenile theatre.

An acknowledged want is very well supplied in Mrs. Berens's *Myths and Legends of Ancient Greece and Rome* (Blackie and Son), a volume of Messrs. Blackie's excellent school series. Elegantly printed, and tastefully illustrated with engravings after the antique, this pretty little volume is something more than a popular account of Greek and Roman mythology, for it also conveys, as claimed by the authoress, "a clear and succinct idea of the religious beliefs of the ancients," and "a picture of old Greek life, its customs, its superstitions, and its princely hospitalities. All the stories are exceedingly well told, and young readers will find the book thoroughly attractive.

The Townhall at Dunstable was destroyed by fire on Wednesday morning.

A peer of the realm succeeds Mr. Clerk-Maxwell as Professor of Experimental Physics at Cambridge. The qualifications of Lord Rayleigh for the position were so evident that on the day of election he was the only candidate proposed. The new Professor, then the Hon. J. W. Strutt, graduated at Trinity College as Senior Wrangler and first Smith's Prizeman in 1864. He was an additional examiner for the Mathematical Tripos in 1876.

As Lord Fermoy was entering the Limerick County Club last Saturday night, a man, named James O'Shea, approached him and struck him a blow with a stick. Lord Fermoy fell, and his assailant fled. Some members of the club, however, who witnessed the assault, pursued him. After a sharp chase they caught him, and handed him over to the police. O'Shea had been, it appears, dismissed from his Lordship's service. It is stated that his Lordship has almost recovered from the effects of the assault. O'Shea was tried on Wednesday and sentenced by Baron Dowse to five years' penal servitude.

Besides *Galignani's Messenger*, there are two other newspapers printed in Paris for English readers. The *Boulevard*, issued once a week, is what is known as a society paper, and is very good of its kind. In the *Parisian*, also a weekly, we have a newspaper proper, giving all the French political news; Parisian social, artistic, and theatrical gossip; a weekly review of music and the drama in Paris, current literature, the latest fashions, special articles on living celebrities by well-known writers, and a summary of news from the United States and Europe. Special attention is devoted to art, literature, and biography, and every week a story by a French or an English author is given. This enterprising paper gives this week a special double Christmas number, containing new and original stories and novelettes by James Payn, Henry James, Jun., Frederick Locker, Alphonse Daudet, Jules Claretie, and others.

THE CHURCH.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Bird, S. W. E., to be Vicar of St. Mary Magdalene, Launceston.
Chalmers, W.; Canon of Melbourne.
Collyns, J. M.; Rural Dean of Daventry.
Demon, J. Myers; Incumbent of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Arbroath.
Hale, W. F.; Assistant-Curate of the United parishes of St. Botolph without Aldgate and St. James, Aldgate.
Kearney, Neville; Incumbent of Croghan, diocese of Elphin.
Leonard, A. A.; Inspector of Schools for the Diocese of Llandaff.
Royes, Gilbert Twemlow; Rector of Haughton.
Simpson, R. J.; Incumbent of Curzon Chapel.
Tomlin, J. S.; Prebendary of Fearing in Chichester Cathedral.
Wilson, C. H.; Vicar of Dilton Marsh-with-Chapmanslade, Wilts.—*Guardian.*

The Rev. William Rogers, Rector of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, was entertained yesterday week by a committee of his parishioners at a dinner at the Albion, and presented with his portrait, in recognition of his exceptional services to the parish and to education.

A handsome monument of Gothic design, executed by Mr. Forsyth, in various marbles and alabaster, surmounted by a richly carved stone canopy, has been erected in Cheriton church, Pembroke, to the late Captain the Hon. Ronald Campbell (Coldstream Guards). He served in the Zulu war as staff officer to Colonel Sir Evelyn Wood, and fell on the Zlobane Mountain, on March 28 last, in the performance of a most gallant deed. His portrait has appeared in this Journal.

A handsome stained-glass window has been placed in the east end of St. Mary's Church, Warwick. The subjects illustrated are, in the centre lights, the Supper at Emmaus and the Sermon on the Mount; and in the side lights, events from the life of Christ; in the tracery pieces are figures of apostles and prophets. The glass is executed in the fifteenth-century style of work in keeping with the architecture of the chancel. The window was executed by Messrs. Heaton, Butler, and Bayne.

St. John's Church, Brighton, which was erected about forty years since by the Rev. H. M. Wagner, the late Vicar of Brighton, was reopened yesterday week, after having been closed for about eighteen months for repairs. The building, which is in the Grecian style of architecture, and has been restored in harmony therewith, will seat some 1600 persons. It was formerly noted for the elaborate ritual with which the former Incumbent, the Rev. A. A. Morgan, conducted its services. Since then the present Vicar of Brighton, the Ven. Archdeacon Hannah, has constituted it the centre of a district parish, with the Rev. R. H. Raines as successor to Mr. Morgan as its Vicar. The district is a poor one, and the Bishop of Chichester, who preached the sermon at the reopening services, commended it to the consideration of the wealthy.

The Bishop of Rochester has issued a long pastoral letter to his clergy on lay work. He says that within a triangle of which Woolwich is the apex, and Putney and Streatham the extremities of the base, there is a population of 1,300,000 with only 332 clergy. The parochial system he considers to be, under such circumstances, not so much destroyed as submerged, and new and living instrumentalities are needed to overtake the arrears of work; but the Church may, he considers, have yet greater triumphs before her than any she has yet achieved if "she will consent to doff the somewhat chilly sedateness she has inherited from generations of high-backed pews, and if, with teaching that the working classes can understand, and services that they can follow, and hymns that they can grasp, and music that they can sing, she will try to persuade them into the fold of Christ." His Lordship dwells on a number of schemes for the effectual carrying on of lay agency, the only actually new one being that of lay preachers.

"CHARACTER SKETCHES FROM DICKENS."

A clever artist and humourist, Mr. Frederick Barnard, has made a series of drawings, each of a single figure, giving his conception of several leading characters in the popular stories for which all the world is so grateful to Charles Dickens. These designs are reproduced, by Mr. T. Robertson, in lithographic plates of a large size, suitable for framing to be suspended on a wall, which Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin have published, and one of which, "Mr. Pickwick," they have allowed us to copy in our page Engraving. The subjects are six in number, "Mrs. Gamp," "Alfred Jingle," "Bill Sykes," "Little Dorrit," "Sidney Carton," and "Mr. Pickwick." It is not the best selection that could have been found, Sidney Carton being an insignificant type of character, and Miss Dorrit, the Marshalsea prisoner's daughter, of less originality than pathetic interest from her situation. The ruffianly force and grim ferocity of Sykes, the housebreaker, who becomes the murderer of Nancy, in "Oliver Twist," may be considered to have got an adequate representation at the artist's hands. As for Mr. Pickwick, the first and best creation, some think, of the gifted author, we could have wished to see him in a more dignified plight. Mr. Barnard, however, presents to us a correct Illustration of one of the undeniable incidents of Pickwickian experience, which will be in the recollection of every reader. It is above forty years since that droll story was told, and those who read it in their youth have it still fresh in their minds to this day. The good old gentleman, being one of the guests of Mr. Wardle at a picnic party in the pleasant fields of Kent, has been too easily persuaded to drink a glass of cold milk punch, "and another glass, just to see whether there was any orange-peel in the punch, because orange-peel always disagreed with him," and then another glass, "in honour of the unknown punch compounder," besides remembering the health of present and absent friends. It is a little too much for him, as his expressive countenance already betrays.

The emigrants from the Mersey last month were 10,141, an increase of 6253 on the figures for November last year.

The Victoria Cross has been awarded to Captain (now Major) Edward Pemberton Leach, Royal Engineers, for his determination and gallantry in an action with the Shinwarris, near Maidana, Afghanistan, on March 17, 1879.

St. Patrick's Church, Ballymena, beautifully situated within the demesne of Old Waveney, which was completely and opened for Divine service in 1855, was completely destroyed by fire on Saturday last.

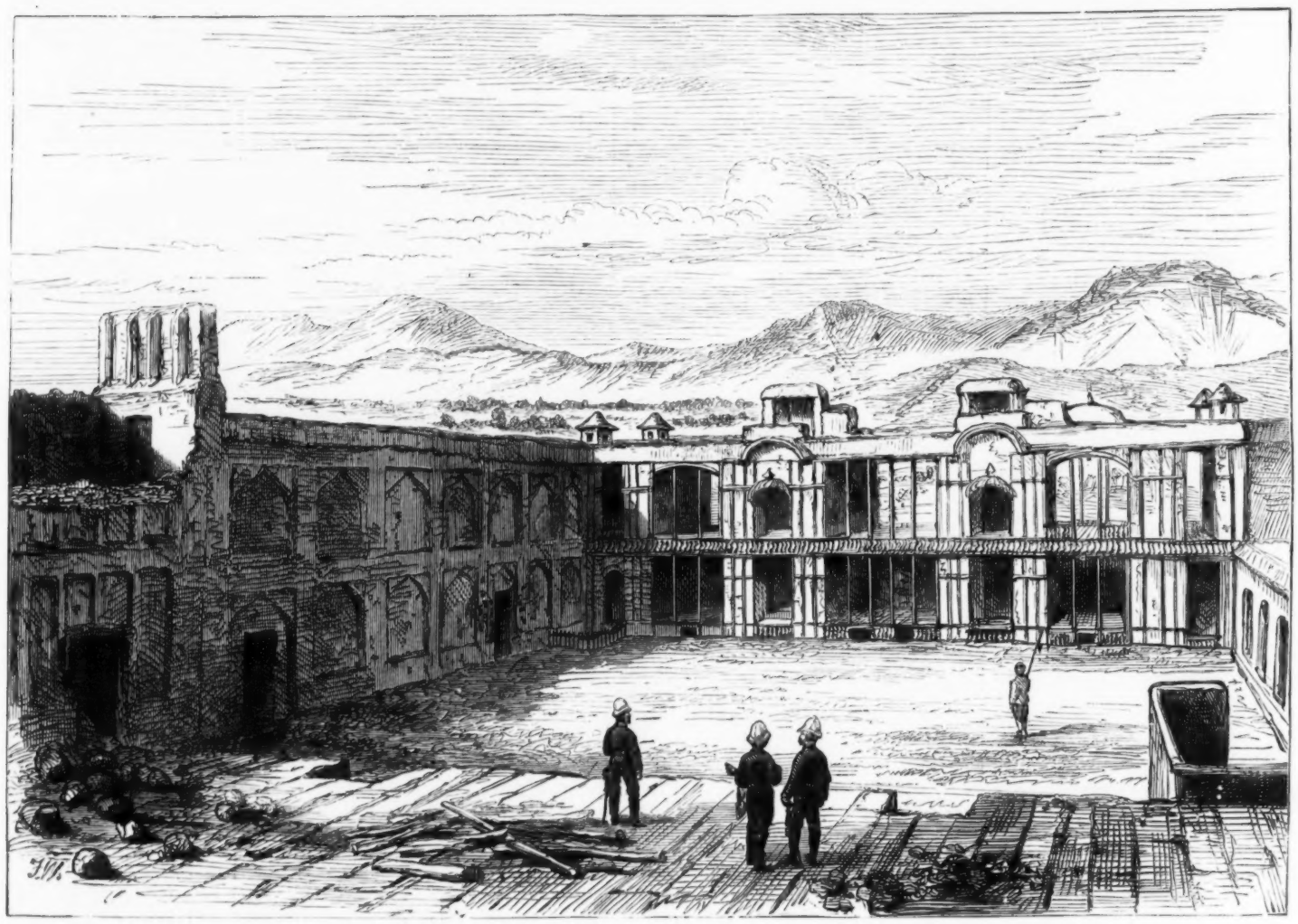
The Rev. T. W. Sharp, one of her Majesty's inspectors, gave an address at the annual gathering of the students of the British and Foreign School Society's College in the Borough-road, yesterday week, and it was announced that the trustees of the Protestant Dissenters' Charity School having discontinued the school the funds belonging to it, more than £6000 will be devoted to granting exhibitions for the students of the college.

The fifth anniversary festival of the Dairymen's Benevolent Institution was held on the 11th inst., at the Freemasons' Tavern, Mr. H. W. Neville in the chair. Covers were laid for 300. In proposing the toast of the evening, the chairman said the most recent Parliamentary returns showed that the metropolitan dairymen were more than 6000 in number. The list of the night's subscriptions announced amounted to £563, including 100 guineas from the chairman.

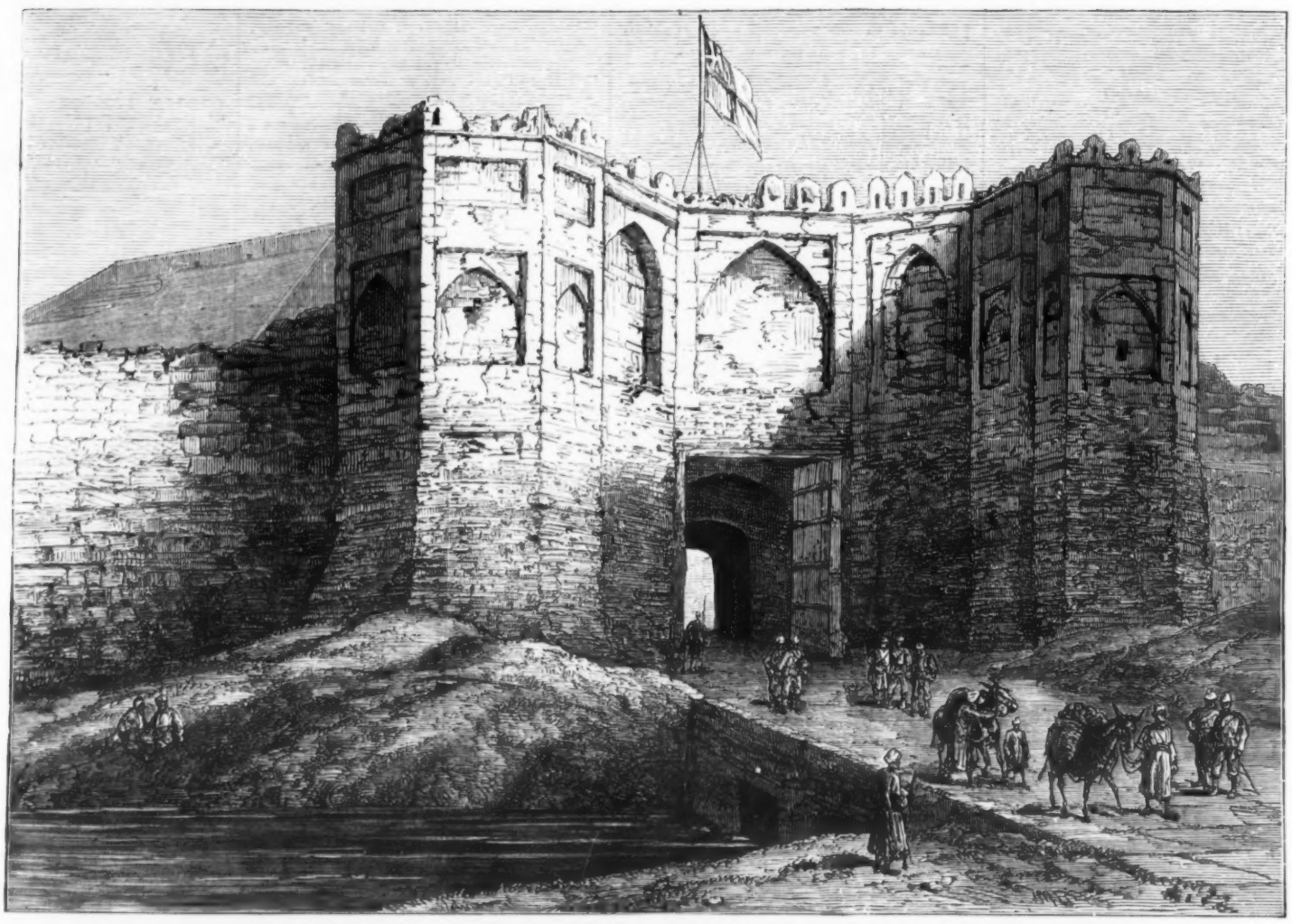
MR. PICKWICK.—ONE OF MR. F. BARNARD'S "CHARACTER SKETCHES FROM DICKENS."
PUBLISHED BY MESSRS. CASSELL, PETTER, AND GALPIN.—SEE PAGE 575.

THE OCCUPATION OF CABUL.

SEE PAGE 570.



INTERIOR OF THE BRITISH RESIDENCY, LOOKING SOUTH.



THE LAHORE GATE OF THE BALA HISSAR.

Extra Supplement.

"INTERRUPTED!"

Here is a "parlous" conspiracy of knights and gentlemen-at-arms, in the troublous times of the Tudors, with the frequent treasonable plotting, which has its compromising documents kept in those unlocked caskets that lie upon the table and the floor. These have been secretly brought to the rural mansion of Sir John Fastness, Knight, an elderly magnate of the shire and disappointed ex-courtier, who became a leader of the rebellious faction. How unfortunate that his fair young wife should have risen from her couch, uneasy at her lord's protracted sitting in the hall after supper, and, ignorant of the arrival of his visitors, should come to see if he has not fallen asleep over a tumbler of wine! Let us invoke the spirit of Sir Walter Scott to report the scene which must have ensued, and the excuses, inquiries, and false explanations.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

From BENTLEY and SON:
Heriot's Choice. By Rosa Nouchette Carey. 3 vols.

BOGUE:
The Royal Guide to London Charities for 1879-80. By Herbert Fry.
Dramatic Notes. Edited by C. E. Pascoe.
The Dramatic List: A Record of the Performances of Living Actors and Actresses on the British Stage

BOOSEY and Co.:
Songs of France: Sixty Songs and Romances. With French and English Words.
Songs of England: Two Hundred English Melodies. Edited by J. L. Hatton. Vol. II.

CASSELL, PETTER, and GALPIN:
The Countries of the World. By R. Brown.

CHAPMAN and HALL:
A Year in Peshawur, and A Lady's Ride into the Khyber Pass. By L. R. Trevelyan.
Chronicles of No-Man's Land. A Third Series of "Camp Notes." By J. Boyle.

CHATTO and WINDUS:
The Marquess Wellesley, Architect of Empire. An Historic Portrait. By W. M. Torrens, M.P.
Elizabethan Demonology. An Essay. By Thomas Alired Spalding.
The Dead Hand. By Sir A. Hobhouse.
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The British Almanac and Companion for 1880, originally started by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, is still most useful and instructive. The "Companion" for next year presents distinct and brief treatises upon the Royal Mint, Cyprus, Temperance Refreshment Houses, South Africa, the heliograph, the deaf and dumb, the rating of chronometers, the progress of London, and the London School Board. The art-exhibitions, music, scientific inventions, Parliamentary legislation, and social events of the past year are carefully recorded.

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CONTENTS.
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The Wellington March	Chas. d'Albert.
Dead March in "Saul"	Handel.
March in "Judas Maccabeus"	Handel.
("See the Conquering Hero Comes.")	
March in "Die Zauberflöte"	Mozart.
March in "Alceste"	Gluck.
March in "Idomeneo"	Mozart.
117.—MIXED SERIES, No. 3.	
Song (Tenor), "Eily Mavourneen"	Sir J. Benedict.
Song (Contralto), "The Lonely Harp" ..	Miss Cowell.
Song (Soprano), "I'm Alone"	Sir J. Benedict.
Song (Baritone), "I never can forget" ..	A. Mellon.
Vocal Duet (Soprano and Contralto), "O ye voices gone"	Zeta.
Vocal Duet (Soprano and Contralto), "Two Wandering Stars"	B. Richards.
Pianoforte, "Soldier's Prayer"	A. Lindahl.
Pianoforte, "Siren's Song"	A. Lindahl.
Pianoforte, "Blue Bells of Scotland" ..	B. Richards.
Dance Music, "West-End Polka"	Chas. d'Albert.
Dance Music, "Little Nell Waltz" ..	Dan Godfrey.
Dance Music, "Lord of Lorne Lancers" ..	Dan Godfrey.
Dance Music, "Express Galop"	Chas. D'Albert.
118.—MIXED SERIES, No. 2.	
Song (Baritone), "The Bell-Ringer" ..	W. V. Wallace.
Song (Soprano), "Tender and True" ..	Arthur Sullivan.
Song (Contralto), "To Thee"	Alberto Randegger.
Song (Tenor), "Oh! whisper what thou feelest"	B. Richards.
Vocal Duet (Soprano and Contralto), "When Birds are singing"	H. Smart.
Vocal Duet (Soprano and Contralto), "Two Merry Gipsies"	G. A. Macfarren.
Pianoforte, "The Soldier's Chorus" ..	B. Richards.
Pianoforte, "Air by Louis XIII."	Henri Ghys.
Pianoforte, "A Ray of sunshine"	Carl Loduc.
Dance Music, "Dewdrop Waltz"	Chas. d'Albert.
Dance Music, "The Sultan's Polka" ..	Chas. d'Albert.
Dance Music, "Folo Lancers"	Dan Godfrey.
Dance Music, "The Mabel Galop"	Dan Godfrey.
115.—MIXED SERIES, No. 1.	
Song (Contralto), "Juanita"	Mrs. Norton.
Song (Soprano), "The Maiden's Story" ..	A. Sullivan.
Song (Baritone), "The Stirrup Cup" ..	Luigi Arditi.
Song (Tenor). "There's Sunlight in Heaven"	M. Balfe.
Vocal Duet (Soprano and Contralto), "Wind and the Harp"	S. Glover.
Vocal Duet (Soprano and Contralto), "Ave Sanctissima"	Mrs. Hemans.
Pianoforte, "Home, Sweet Home" ..	B. Richards.
Pianoforte, "The Silver Trumpets" ..	F. Viviani.
Pianoforte, "Prière d'une Vierge" ..	T. Badarzewska.
Dance Music, "The Rink Galop"	Chas. d'Albert.
Dance Music, "The Hilda Waltz"	Dan Godfrey.
Dance Music, "Palermo Quadrilles" ..	Chas. d'Albert.
Dance Music, "King Pippin Polka" ..	Chas. d'Albert.

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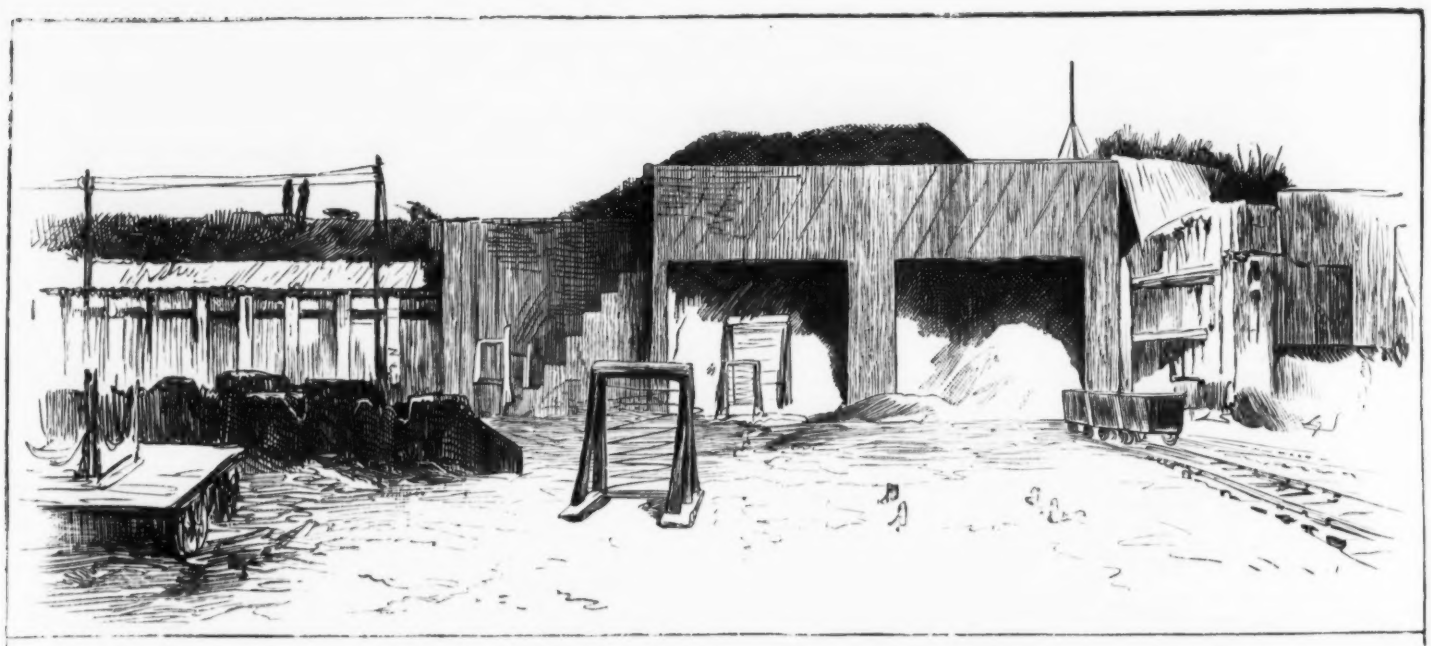
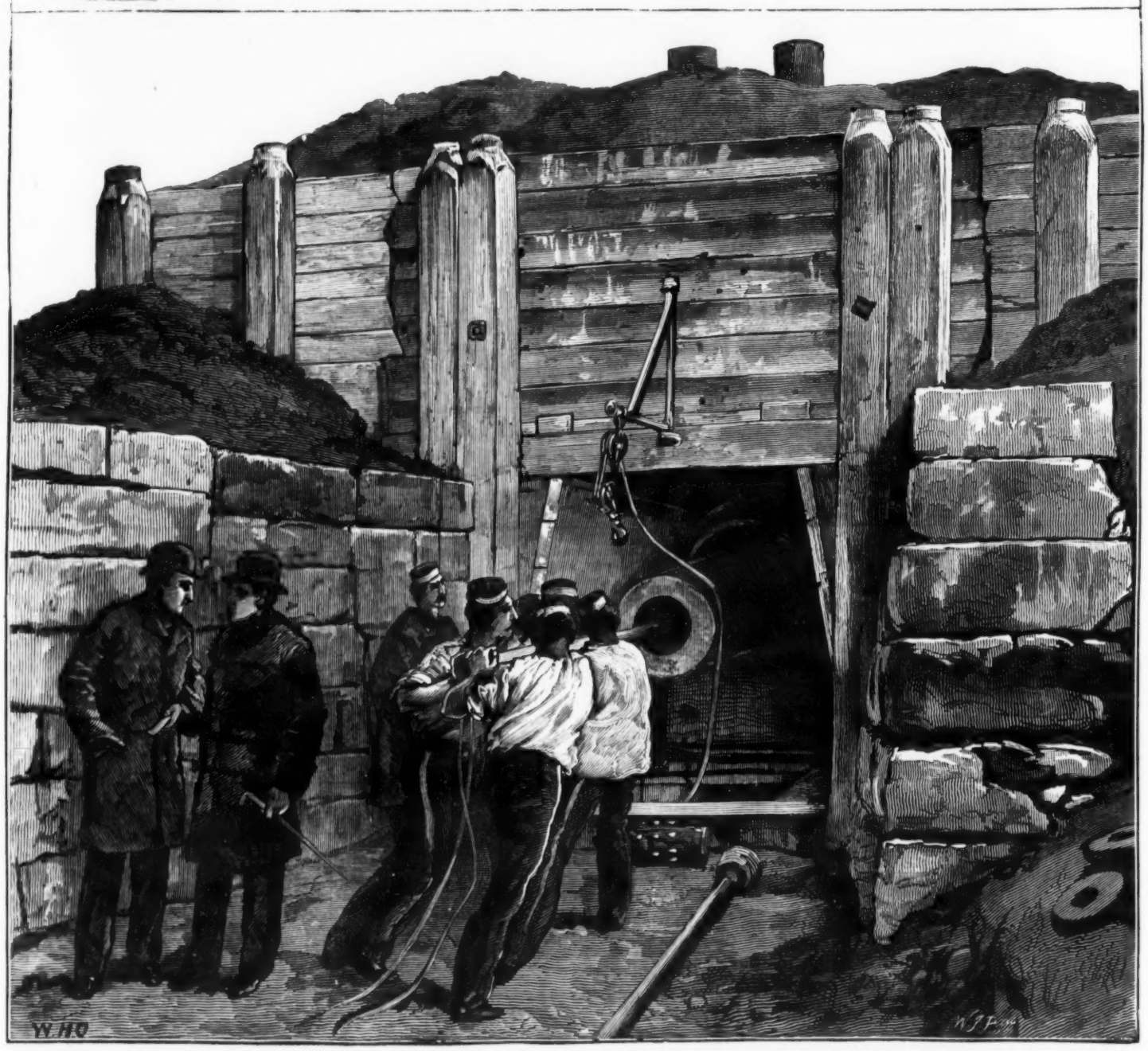




PREPARATIONS FOR TESTING THE THUNDERER'S THIRTY-EIGHT TON GUN AT WOOLWICH.

THE THUNDERER GUN EXPERIMENTS.

Since Tuesday of last week, a series of experiments has been going on, day after day, with some interruption, at the proof butts in the Government Marshes adjoining the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. The disastrous explosion of a 38-ton gun in one of the turrets on board her Majesty's ship Thunderer in the Sea of Marmora occurred on Jan. 2 last. The committee of investigation into the cause of the explosion assembled at Malta on the 24th of the same month. The period since has been occupied in considering the committee's report, and in preparations for carryng out their recommendations. The explosion had been caused, in the committee's opinion, by the gun having been inadvertently double loaded—first with a cartridge of 85 lb. of powder and a Palliser shell of 700 lb., and then with a similar cartridge and a common shell of 587 lb.—the ignition of the foremost charge occurring at a part of the gun where the thickness of metal was inadequate to endure the strain. The Lords of the Admiralty on May 1 assented to the recommendation that the second 38-ton gun should be taken from the Thunderer's turret and subjected to a series of tests, in order to show that the accident was due not to any defect in the manufacture of the guns, but to circumstances entirely under the control of the gunners. One of the opposing theories was that the wad which is used to keep the projectile from slipping had by some means become displaced, causing the shell to jam, and so making the gun burst.

The committee have made some progress with their experiments. The programme arranged by the Admiralty is to be carried out free from material variation. Among the spectators were General Gordon, C.B., Royal Artillery, President of the committee; Admiral H. Boys, Director of Naval Ordnance; Colonel Inglis, Royal Engineers; Colonel Maitland, Royal Artillery; Colonel W. H. Noble, Royal Engineers, Inspector of Works, Royal Arsenal; Lord Charles Beresford, M.P., Commander Royal Navy; Major F. Ellis, R.A., Secretary of the Experimental Branch; Captain O'Brien, R.E., Assistant-Inspector of Works, and others. The 38-ton gun was seen peeping from a cell in a mound facing the proof butts. It was mounted upon an ordinary naval carriage and platform, and all the arrangements were made to approximate as nearly as possible to circumstances on board ship. There was not much room to spare inside the cell, which was only about 10 ft. square at the front and some 30 ft. long, just sufficient to allow for the recoil. The interior

is faced with balks of timber, overlaid with heavy pigs of iron and several feet of concrete, upon which earth is heaped until a hillcock is formed 35 ft. in height and 200 ft. in circumference. When at the final round the gun is double loaded and bursts as predicted there need be no fear of consequences to the spectators. One of the new bays at the old butts was used for the first time, and the improvements under the direction of Colonel Noble were considered highly satisfactory. The usual preparations were made for taking exact records of velocities, pressures, and other circumstances, and a novelty was observed in the shape of a wooden screen in front of the sand bank, the object being to preserve a vertical face to the sand, and thereby it was hoped to counteract a tendency of the projectiles to turn upwards.

The experiments hitherto made have been chiefly designed to try whether or not the gun would burst with a considerable vacant space left between the powder-cartridge and the shot or shell, as some persons were of opinion that, in the gun which did actually burst on board the ship, this derangement had accidentally taken place by the shell having slipped forward. It is now proved, however, that with an interval of six feet between the greatest charge of powder and the heaviest shot there is no injury to the gun, and the space will be increased to eight or ten feet, with little apparent probability of bursting. The committee will finally try if they cannot burst this gun by firing it with a double charge of powder and shells, as they suppose the other gun to have been twice loaded in the case of that lamentable disaster a twelvemonth ago.

THE SYDNEY EXHIBITION.

The opening, on Sept. 17, of the International Exhibition at Sydney, New South Wales, has already been the subject of an Illustration in this Journal, from a Sketch by our Special Artist. We now present a view of the "Garden Palace," as it is popularly called, erected for the Exhibition, with the buildings provided to shelter the machinery and live stock, and with the beautiful shores of Sydney Harbour extending some miles beyond. The portraits of Lord Augustus Loftus, now Governor of New South Wales, who performed the opening ceremony, the Earl of Belmore, a former Governor, who is President of the Exhibition Commission in London, Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart., Vice-President, and Mr. P. A. Jennings, Executive Commissioner at Sydney, appear in this Number.

We have on two previous occasions described the Exhibition Palace, which is situated in that portion of the Sydney public park known as the Inner Domain, overlooking the Botanic Gardens and the harbour, the rear being towards Macquarie-street. The building consists of a nave 800 ft. long, a transept 500 ft. long, two aisles, with annexes and galleries, four towers, and a central dome, which is 210 ft. high and 100 ft. in diameter, roofed with iron; it is lighted by twenty-six windows, in a lantern, and by a skylight at the foot of the lantern. It covers about one-third of the space occupied by the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park at the Exhibition of 1851. The interior is coloured with yellow and light-blue, and with lines of red. The general plan of the edifice is apparent in our View presented this week; the front elevation was shown in a former Illustration. It will be observed that the rear range of building is one storey high; the front part, facing towards the north-east, has two storeys, and the towers are of three, rising at each of the four sides, there being one at each end of the nave and one at the end of each transept. With reference to the site of the Palace, it may be well to mention that Government house, distinguished by the flag, is seen at the extreme left of our View, to the west, in which direction also lies the town of Sydney; along the shore to the right-hand of the Palace are Farm Cove, Watson's Bay, and other conspicuous inlets, with Garden Island, Shark Island, and Clark Island; but the opposite land is the north shore of the harbour, as far as North Head and Bradley's Head, where lies the entrance from the open sea.

The distinguished persons connected with this Exhibition, whose portraits we give, must be noticed more particularly. The Governor, Lord Augustus Loftus, is the fourth son of the second Marquis of Ely, and was born in 1817, and educated at Trinity College, Cambridge. Entering the diplomatic service, he acted as Chargé-d'Affaires at Berlin in the years 1853, 1855, 1857; was appointed Envoy at Vienna in March, 1858; transferred to Berlin in December, 1860; to Munich in 1862; returned to Berlin in 1865; was accredited to the North German Confederation in 1868, and appointed Ambassador at St. Petersburg in July, 1871. He was appointed Governor of New South Wales in January of this year, and arrived at that Colony in the first week of August. He married, in 1845, the second daughter of Admiral H. F. Greville.

The Earl of Belmore (Somerset Richard Lowry-Corry) son of the third Irish peer of that title, was born in 1835, was educated at Cambridge, and was elected a representative peer to sit in the House of Lords in 1857. He was Under-Secretary for the Home Department in 1866 and 1867 under Lord Derby's Government, and in January, 1868, was appointed Governor of New South Wales, where he resided till 1872. He married, in 1861, a daughter of Captain John Gladstone, R.N. Lord Belmore has done useful service in Parliamentary inquiries and legislative measures for the better regulation of railways, the improved auditing of public accounts, Irish University and intermediate education, and in the suppression of abuses in the Polynesian labour traffic. He was President of the London Commission this year for the Sydney Exhibition, and a member also of the Royal Commission for the Sydney and Melbourne Exhibitions, of which the Prince of Wales is President.

Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart., K.C.M.G., formerly Speaker of the New South Wales House of Assembly, was born in that colony in 1821, but received his education in England. He returned to New South Wales in 1843, and in 1849 was elected one of the Legislative Council. In 1856, when a Parliamentary Constitution was set on foot, he entered the Assembly, and was chosen its Speaker, to which office he was several times reappointed after general elections of the Assembly. He promoted the construction of the first railway, from Sydney to Paramatta, and was one of its directors. He also supported the establishment of the Sydney University and the Grammar School, being at one time a member of the Senate of the former and a trustee of the latter; and he established a scholarship at the University and contributed liberally, with others, to the ornamentation of the great hall, which is one of the largest and handsomest belonging to any University. In 1861 Sir Daniel, for the benefit of his health and the education of his family, came to England, where he has resided since, making periodical visits to Australia; but he has never been idle. During the late Sir Charles Cowper's illness he helped him in the duties of Agent-General, and at his death temporarily filled the office of Agent-General. At this period he negotiated with the other Agents-General to duplicate the telegraph cables to Australia, which failed for the time, but has lately led to a successful agreement. He also, with Sir Julius Vogel, negotiated for the laying of the telegraph cable between Sydney and New Zealand, and also the present packet contract between Sydney, New Zealand, and San Francisco. Sir D. Cooper, in 1862, represented his colony at the International Exhibition, and he has occupied the same position at each International Exhibition in Paris, Vienna, Philadelphia, and Paris again. For some years he was connected with the Society of Arts and the Royal Horticultural Society, and aided much in the Grand International Horticultural Show of 1866, of which he was the treasurer. He has laboured to improve the warehousing and sale of Australian wool in London; and has, almost single-handed, caused improvements to be made and reductions in charges which must cause a saving of many thousands a year to the Australian sheep farmer. He was knighted in 1857, and raised to the baronetcy in 1863.

Mr. Patrick Alfred Jennings, C.M.G., was born in 1831, at Newry, in Ireland, the son of a merchant in that town. He went to Australia in 1852, and was tolerably successful at the gold-fields, where he was among the first to introduce quartz-crushing machinery. He afterwards engaged in pastoral enterprise in the Riverina district of Victoria. In 1866, he accepted a nomination to the Legislative Council of New South Wales. This he resigned in 1870, to become representative of the Murray district in the Assembly, where he sat in two Parliaments, taking a leading part in the discussion of fiscal affairs between New South Wales and Victoria. He was a Commissioner to represent New South Wales, Queensland, and Tasmania, at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition of the United States, in 1876. In December, 1878, he was to have taken office in the proposed Robertson Ministry, but there was a change of political conditions. He has been, during some years, Vice-President of the New South Wales Agricultural Society, and his active exertions this year, as Executive Commissioner of the present Exhibition, have contributed greatly to its success.

Our Portrait of Lord A. Loftus is from a photograph by C. Roesch, of St. Petersburg; that of Lord Belmore, from one by Mr. Chancellor, of Dublin; and that of Sir Daniel Cooper, one by Mr. T. Fall, of Baker-street, London.

INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.

As a winter exhibition, nominally of "sketches and studies," which does not pretend to show the members' principal work of the year, this present collection may be regarded as rather above than below the average, though the improvement is not nearly so marked as at the parent society's gallery farther east in Pall-mall. Two innovations, both of them highly judicious as we think, have to be noted in the personal constitution of this society and the arrangement of its exhibition. One of these is the removal of the distinction between "members" and "associates," every artist elected into the society being now a "member"—a liberal step warmly to be commended to the elder society. Every accepted artist should, we think, be admitted to the deliberations (for is there not "wisdom in the multitude of councillors?") the rights and privileges of the artists who have elected him into their body. The differences in the degrees of talent of these water-colour painters is not in general so great as to necessitate an invidious distinction which seems to have originated in a somewhat ostentatious imitation of the Royal Academy constitution, nor does the system of succession at the Old Society seem to be worked even on a fair or defined principle. We have known artists remain for very many years on the Associate list, while others much more recently elected, and most certainly not of superior merit, have been promoted to the full honour of membership. The other innovation at the Institute is the appropriation of the small room at the end of the long gallery for the display (in the winter gatherings at least) of drawings in black and white. The Institute, like the elder society, comprises several first-rate draughtsmen for the wood engraver, and this collection of genuine "studies and sketches" in black and white is not only very interesting in itself, but serves to show the strength of the younger body as regards the essentials of draughtsmanship and design.

Among the absentees from this exhibition is the worthy president, Mr. Louis Haghe, and we regret to hear that this may be attributed to serious illness.

We cannot do better than commence our observations in detail than with Mr. T. Collier's large and noble drawing "A Deer Park in the Southern Downs" (271), an extensive view of this truly magnificent scenery with the lines, graceful as grand, of its great rolling masses, and a shadowy wood stretching through the prodigious hollow that sweeps free as a huge sea trough, far away from our feet, and to the mountain waves that it feeds and flings up right and left towards the heavens. By much the finest work the artist has done, this drawing, without reminding us so much of David Cox as Mr. Collier did formerly, yet recalls the simple broad unity and power of the early masters of water-colour. Mr. J. D. Linton's "Flag of Truce" (68) is distinguished by his able painting of characteristic heads, and the elaboration he imparts so conscientiously and only too equally to all textures; but otherwise it is not a happy example. In a courtyard just within the walls of a beleaguered city of the Low Countries apparently, and in the seventeenth century, a mounted trooper bearing the white flag is receiving the message to the besiegers from the city magnates, who stand at a portal to the right. This is, of course, the natural reading of the incident; but the expressions of these ancient personages seem so denunciatory and irate, as well as resolute, that one might suppose that the flag of truce had come from the besiegers with unacceptable terms. There is indeed, as usual, some ambiguity in the dramatic expressions: the attitudes of the trooper, horse, and attendant are awkward, and the composition straggling. In another drawing of a girl holding, rather stiffly, a tumbler of forget-me-nots (245), the execution is superior, though we find the artist indulging (as with the soldiers in the last drawing) his partiality for costumes that are rather *outrés* than picturesque. The fashion of the dress in this instance seems to be German of near the Maximilian time. Refined and tender as Mr. H. G. Hine cannot fail to be, we have seen him to more advantage than in the view of the "Chalk Cliffs at Cuckmere, Sussex" (241), seen through a veil of misty spray from the lashing waves below. It may be observed generally that repeated washings of the paper, while procuring delicacy and breadth of tone, is too apt to result in dulness, vapidity, and "woolliness." Mr. Hargitt appears prominently and very creditably in his powerful and richly coloured drawing, "Near Capel Curig" (260). Mr. Houston also is favourably represented in "Kilchurn Castle" (95) and other landscapes, and in a little figure-picture of a child asleep with its doll (52); and Mr. Harry Johnson is at his best in "Haunted" (91), a deserted ruinous cottage with strangely distorted window-panes, dimly discerned in a weird twilight, as the hare glances rustling through the wild overgrowths of the long-neglected garden, and the will-o'-the-wisp floats along the marshy hollow. All Mr. Edwin Hayes's small sketches for sea-pieces are very spirited and skilful. An elegant pictorial feeling pervades Mr. Leitch's landscapes, particularly the small ones, though some are a little heavy in tone. Mr. W. L. Thomas has exhibited nothing so good as his series of subjects from Switzerland. Of these the prettiest is that of the girl in the quaint "Sunday" costume of "Appenzel" (107) watering her flowers at the châlet casement; and the most impressive "The Ribbon Road, St. Gothard's Pass" (287)—the road so named from its long, winding, apparently narrow course along the ledges of the gigantic gorge, though still more remarkable than this view is the numerous lappings of the road among the savage rocks nearer the summit. A word of warm praise is due to the child-head, about lifesize, called "A Pleasant Thought" (272), by Miss Emily Farmer.

The lately elected and younger members are fairly represented. Mr. Seymour Lucas has an effective drawing, "A Question of Date" (29), a dilettante in costume of last century dubiously eyeing one of the huge tilting helms of the fifteenth century. Sir Coutts-Lindsay sends sketches, quite up to the professional level in competency, of some of the numerous convents of Mount Athos (Nos. 99 and 254) and a view in Troas—a picturesque, little-known world. By Lady Lindsay there is a lifesize, carefully modelled head of an Italian boy, "Antonino" (111). Mr. Fulleylove's exterior and interior views at Hampton Court (64 and 251) afford promise. "Waiting for Water, Venice, 7.55 a.m." (265), by Mr. Frank Topham, is the best drawing by him we have seen: water girls or *acquajole*, with their copper pails near the fountain in the first cortile of the Ducal Palace waiting for the striking of the hour to draw water—the fountains at Venice being opened at stated times twice a day. Messrs. Walter Wilson, Clausen, and Hugh Carter have each gone to Holland for materials and themes. The first, in his largely and boldly handled "Jilted" (228)—a little Dutch girl forsaking a whimpering boy with a boat for another with an apple—has made a notable advance, though his effects of light are still too flickering. In the black-and-white room is the long series of this artist's very clever and lively pen-and-ink illustrations to Mr. C. Pascoe's "Dramatic Notes," which will afford a fund of pleasure and amusement to playgoers. Mr. Carter's Dutch baby, "Left Alone" (105), in its tall, lumbering wooden chair and table combined, and other drawings, are evidently inspired by Israels; but the artist has hardly caught the suggestive air of accident in the master's execution. Mr. Clausen evinces steady progress in his Dutch scene (60) on a canal towing-path, over which hang the mists of "early morning," with a man tracking a barge, and a buxom lass trudging along under the yoke that supports her baskets laden with farm produce. Mr. Walter May, too, is fond of the canals, and polders, and schuyts, and pinks of Holland (though not to the exclusion of other neighbouring coasts and craft), and he, likewise, is wearing ahead. "Dutch Boats, Alkmaar" (305), "Evening at St. Malo" (57), and others, have, in addition to thorough nautical knowledge, a modesty of execution, a refinement of colour, and a sober truthfulness generally, which must be sought out to be appreciated as they deserve to be. "Beechy Island, Winter Quarters of Sir John Franklin, 1845-6" (177), a monochrome drawing by this artist, is authenticated, we believe, by Mr. May's own Arctic experience in early life. Another artist whose aim at refinement and simplicity is commendable, and who also attains much breadth without, as formerly, obvious imitation of David Cox, is Mr. Orrock. But, valuable as breadth is in all art, we must submit that the quality might be displayed in scenery of more interest than that of the "Lincolnshire Coast," although enlivened by cart and horse, and men scouring the sea-margin for shrimps, as we see in No. 37, or by "Shrimpers Unloading" (12)—two of Mr. Orrock's largest drawings. Similar in subject to these is "Smelt-Fishing on the East Coast" (106) and other works by E. C. Holloway, together with the conscientiously executed scenes from the Norfolk coast by C. J. Staniland. Welcome are several contributions, illustrative of the wonders of the animal world, by Mr. Wolf, who, for learning as a naturalist and learning informed by imaginative, and artistic insight—stands almost alone. In "Storks starting for the South" (55) the air is alive with the rising birds, as they soar to fall in, with military accuracy, along the wedge-shaped column already formed in the sky, whilst hundreds still await on the plain their turn to rise. The other drawings are in chalk: "The Merlin," literally "stalking his prey" (186) of goldfinches among thistles; "Storm on the Alps" (160), chamois, ptarmigan, and even the timid hare crowding together for shelter from wind and snow about a sheltering pine; and a pair, "Night" (154), a lion prowling as a rifle flashes upon him (similar to a subject we have engraved), and "Morning" (173), a lion lying dead with a bullet-hole in his side.

The group of painters known also as draughtsmen for wood-engraving, which includes Messrs. C. Green, W. Small, William Simpson, H. Herkomer, and others, are not largely represented in colour; whilst John Tenniel, E. J. Gregory, and others are absent altogether. Several painters in this category have been influenced in water-colours by the practice of the late Frederick Walker, particularly as regards the use of body colour, as they have in illustrative work by his exquisite precision. C. Green has two small figures, a lady reading "The Lady's Magazine for 1820" (356), herself dressed in the hideous fashion of that date; and an attitudinising beau of 1793 (357). The most important drawing by W. Small is "Drying Herring Nets—Banff" (277), with many good qualities, barring harshness of colouring. But by both these artists there are in the small room several series of designs for novels and other illustrations. On these we have not space to expatiate, and can only mention *en passant* Mr. Green's capital studies of horsey rascals and their dupes in "Racecourse Outsiders" (151)—studies made probably for his "Derby Day." The visitor, however, cannot fail to highly esteem drawings which have gone triumphantly through the trying ordeal of satisfying at once the authors, the public, and the publishers. And some may recall the fact that the present vastly extended application of illustrative art to newspapers and other publications has served to develop the powers, not of several only, but of very many of the leading artists of the day. To the able, adventurous, and learned draughtsman, Mr. William Simpson, the *Illustrated London News* and its readers are too much indebted as an artistic correspondent from all parts of the world, not for the two coloured sketches he has sent here (but nothing in simple black and white) to be encountered with much pleasure. One represents the magnificent snow-clad "Suffaid Koh Range, Afghanistan, from near Gundamuck" (115); the other (217) the arrival of Dr. Brydon at Jellalabad, "The Sole Survivor" of the massacre of 1842, painted from sketches on the spot and descriptions lately furnished to the artist by Major Bailey, an eye-witness of Dr. Brydon's arrival—the subject treated so pathetically also by Miss Thompson. Mr. Herkomer's sole contribution is an etching of his own head (184); but this is the best etching we have seen by him: note also the pretty group of a couple of children embracing each other in the corner of the plate. Mr. A. C. Gow, who as a painter may be classed with these artists, has a highly-finished excellent drawing, "Stragglers" (78)—wounded soldiers in a barn, a little girl (why such a starveling?) entering the door. Miss Mary L. Gow deserves all encouragement for the decided advance shown in "The Epilogue to 'Romula'" (101)—Romula with a boy at her knee, whom she is teaching.

Among works by other artists—mostly those whose characteristics are known to the public—we must be content to

mention "Camels at a Watering-Place, Jaffa" (285), by R. Beavis (whose Academy picture, "En Route to Mecca," we lately engraved); another camel study (39), by Guido Bach; "On the Welsh Coast" (282), by J. Syer—which seems to have more of the conventionality of early works than usual; "None are so blind as those who won't see" (295), by Towneley Green; "Marianina" (367), by E. Bale; sketch by J. Aumonier, very true to nature in general aspect, and others refined in colour by Harry Hine. Venetian and other subjects by W. Wyld; studies with sunset and other effects by J. Mogford; "Pianosa, Coast of Corsica" (326), by J. G. Philp, whose painting has improved with change of scene; "Mountain Road" (75), by E. M. Wymperis; Greenwich Hospital" (40), by F. J. Skill; "Contrast — Moncontour, Brittany" (11), by J. Absolom; "Naples and Vesuvius" (206), from the unfinished and ruinous palace of Queen Joan, at Posilippo, by C. Vacher; a large drawing of a lady trying the effect of a Royalist favour in a mirror (49), by G. G. Kilburne, whose smaller work we much prefer; sketches in Spain and Algiers by Mrs. E. Murray; "A Surrender" (334) by C. Cattermole; "Shellfish Gatherers" (225) by R. Carrick; a rough and ludicrous sketch of a country bumpkin with a kid called "Jack's Darling" (222) by H. B. Roberts, not worthy of the painter; architectural subjects by J. L. Wood; landscapes by J. H. Mole, E. G. Warren, J. W. Whymper; Fahey senior and junior, Penson and Pidgeon, and still-life by Mrs. Duffield and J. Sherrin.

The forthcoming exhibition at the Grosvenor Gallery, which will open Jan. 1 next, will contain a number of works by Dutch artists.

In the distribution of prizes to the Royal Academy students last week the silver medal for a painting of a head was awarded to John Henry Henshall, of Manchester.

We regret to learn that Mrs. Louise Jopling is in precarious health, and is ordered by her physicians to abstain from painting, and to take perfect rest for three or four months.

The lecture at the London Institution on the 11th inst. was given to a crowded audience by Mr. Walter Severn on "Sketching from Nature," and was practically illustrated.

Mr. Scharf, Keeper and Secretary of the National Portrait Gallery, South Kensington, informs us that the gallery will be open to the public on Friday, the 26th inst. (Boxing Day).

The French Government have conferred the distinction of the Legion of Honour on Mr. Hubert Herkomer, A.R.A., one of the two English painters who gained a gold medal for art at the last Paris Exhibition.

The Art-Union of London have issued proofs of an important plate engraved in line by Mr. Lumb Stocks, R.A., "Dr. Johnson Awaiting an Audience of Lord Chesterfield," from the original picture by the late Mr. E. M. Ward, R.A. It is a fine picture, and is to be received by all subscribers to the next distribution, in addition to the chance of gaining one out of the 630 prizes, of the aggregate value of £5440.

The sale of the late Sir Charles Rushout's collection of pictures and plate, &c., was concluded yesterday week at Messrs. Phillips and Sons' Rooms, New Bond-street, the total amount realised being upwards of £16,000. A notable feature of the sale was the large number of pictures painted for the family by Angelica Kauffman, and these provoked keen competition, and in most cases realised high prices.

MUSIC.

The supplemental series of performances at Her Majesty's Theatre closed, as intimated last week, on Saturday, with "Oberon," for the benefit of Madame Pappenheim: that of Madame Marie Rose having taken place on the previous Thursday in "Mignon;" "Lohengrin" having been given on the following evening for the benefit of Mdlle. Minnie Hauk, who repeated the meritorious performance of the character of Elsa, which has heretofore been commented on. On the Wednesday afternoon before, the same part was sustained, for the first time, by Madame Hélène Crosmond, who gave a very effective representation of it. Signor Li Calsi continued to fulfil the office of conductor.

Mr. Carl Rosa's new season of performances of opera in English begins, at the same house, on Jan. 10.

Last Saturday's Crystal Palace concert—the eleventh of the series—included a fine performance of Mendelssohn's noble "Antigone" music, for which special arrangements had been made with Mr. Henry Leslie, by whose excellent choir this great work has several times been admirably rendered, as it was in the instance now referred to—directed by Mr. Leslie, who conducted the whole concert. The incidental passages for solo voices in the "Antigone" music were rendered by Messrs. H. Guy, B. Davis, R. E. Miles, and H. D'Egville. Other fine performances on Saturday were those of Mendelssohn's noble eight-part psalm "Judge me, O God," Bach's motet "The spirit also helpeth," and Morley's vivacious part-song "My bonnie lass, she smileth," all heretofore associated with Mr. Leslie's concerts. Mdlle. Marie Breidenstein made a very successful first appearance in Weber's fine concert scena "Ines de Castro," in which the lady displayed a soprano voice of bright quality, and some good declamation and brilliant execution. Balfe's serenade "Good night, beloved," nicely sung by Mr. H. Guy, and Mendelssohn's "Ruy Blas" overture completed the programme.

The first concert of the Highbury Philharmonic Society's second season was given at the Highbury Athenæum on Monday evening, when the late Mr. Henry Smart's sacred cantata, "Jacob," was performed for the first time in London. The work was commissioned for and produced at the Glasgow Festival of 1873, and was very favourably noticed at the time. Its performance on Monday last again proved that it contains much skilful writing, although, perhaps, somewhat wanting in distinctive individuality of style. Several of the choruses proved very effective, those being, generally, the strongest portions of the work. The recitative and air for Laban, and the duet for Rachel and Jacob, both in the second part, were much applauded; the singers having been Mr. R. Hilton, Miss Jessie Jones, and Mr. H. Kearton. Other effective pieces having been the recitative and air for the Angel (Mrs. Bradshawe McKay), and the quartet, by the four singers named, in the third part of the cantata. The band and chorus were efficient, and the performance was ably conducted by Dr. Bridge.

Mdlle. Janotha was again the pianist at this week's Monday Popular Concert, her solos having been three characteristic pieces—a capriccio by Brahms, a romance by Madame Schumann (composed when she was Clara Wieck), and a novelette by Robert Schumann—all which were charmingly played. A quartet by Haydn and Beethoven's Septet, both led by Madame Norman-Néruda, respectively began and closed the concert, which included vocal pieces gracefully rendered by Miss Lillian Bailey.

Last Saturday night the first Promenade Concert at the Royal Aquarium, under the direction of Mr. C. Dubois, attracted a large audience and passed off successfully.

The annual concert in aid of the funds of the Post-Office Orphan Home took place at St. James's Hall on Saturday evening, and was very successful. The programme, which was a very full one, included the names of the following artistes, all of whom gave their services for the occasion:—Madame Marie Roze (Her Majesty's Opera), Madame Liebhart, Miss Annie Sinclair, Miss Elene Webster, Madame Cross-Lavers, Madame Frances Brooke, Miss Orridge, Madame Osborne Williams, Miss E. G. Maile, Miss de Fonblanque, Madame Mary Cummings (Her Majesty's Opera), Mr. W. H. Cummings, Mr. Percy Blandford, Mr. Wallace Wells, Mr. Henry Guy, Mr. Henry Cross, Mr. Walter Clifford, Mr. Frederick King, Miss Albert (piano), Mr. Viotti Collins (Royal Italian Opera) (violin), Mr. Oluf Svensden (flautist to the Queen), Mr. John Thomas (harpist to the Queen). Mr. G. Grossmith, jun., the British Glee Union, and (as conductors) Sir Julius Benedict, Mr. Humphrey J. Stark, Mr. Lehmeyer, and Mr. W. Ganz. Notwithstanding the length of the programme, several encores were demanded and accorded. The institution in whose aid this concert was given has no building of its own. The orphans, at present ninety-seven in number, are boarded out in schools or private homes, and are maintained and educated, with periodical visitation by the committee, until they are, if boys, fourteen, if girls, fifteen, years of age. The boys for the most part enter the service of the Post Office. The charity is supported by subscriptions within the Post Office, and by public contributions.

A grand evening amateur concert, conducted by Signor Adelman, was given at the residence of Miss Pattisson, 20, Clifton-gardens, Maida-hill, on Tuesday, to aid in the maintenance of forty new beds lately added to the University College Hospital.

The last of the "London Ballad Concerts" before Christmas took place on Wednesday, with a varied selection, including many favourite old English songs and ballads.

Messrs. Shedlock and Lochner closed their series of interesting "Musical Evenings," at the Lancaster Hall, Notting-hill, last week. The next series is to begin in April.

Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise" ("Lobgesang") and Rossini's "Stabat Mater" constituted the programme of Mr. William Carter's concert of Thursday at the Royal Albert Hall.

The third of the excellent chamber concerts of Messrs. Carrodus and E. Howell took place at the Beethoven Rooms on Thursday evening. On the same evening, Madame Sainton-Dolby gave a concert at Steinway Hall, the programme having comprised a varied selection of vocal music performed by pupils of her Academy.

The Sacred Harmonic Society's forty-eighth Christmas performance of "The Messiah" took place yesterday (Friday) evening, the principal singers announced having been Miss Anna Williams, Madame Enriquez, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Mr. Lewis Thomas.

The Royal Albert Hall Amateur Orchestral Society opens its eighth season this (Saturday) evening with a concert in aid of the funds of the German Hospital, Dalston. The orchestral concert of the students of the Royal Academy of Music also takes place, at St. James's Hall, this (Saturday) evening.

The competition for the Santley Prize of ten guineas, for the competitor who may be judged to "accompany best and to transpose at sight," took place at the Royal Academy of Music on Monday. There were nine candidates, and the prize was awarded to Richard Harvey Löhr.

Mr. Henry Gadsby's new cantata, "The Lord of the Isles," will be performed on Monday next by the Brixton Choral Society. The composer will preside at the pianoforte, the conductor being Mr William Lemare. The vocalists are Mr James Sauvage, Mr Wallace Wells, Mr. Gerard Coventry, Mr Henry Winter; and Mrs. Bradshaw McKay and Madame Clara Suter.

THEATRES.

A new play connected with the name of Mr. James Albery must always excite a certain amount of interest. Though not all his works are equal to "The Two Roses," they invariably indicate a delicacy of conception and an elegance of composition that far remove him from the ranks of the ordinary playwright. He claims to be a dramatist of no common order, and his claims are to a great extent justified. We could have wished that he had avoided the seductions of what it has become fashionable to call "the Ring," and been content to take his lot with those whose genius, it is now acknowledged, adds unrecognised literary wealth to the country. The new drama which he has this week contributed to the Court Theatre, now under the enlightened management of Mr. Wilson Barrett, is entitled "The Old Love and the New." It is a play in five acts, written by Bronson Howard, and adapted to the English stage by Mr. James Albery. The story is obvious enough from the title, and the poetic interest which it possesses is sure to recommend it to the fashionable and intelligent audiences of the Chelsea theatre. Its representation commands the talents of an efficient company, with Miss Amy Roselle as the leading attraction. The part of the heroine is exceedingly well adapted to this lady's especial aptitude, and will add to her laurels. Other characters are ably supported by Mr. Charles Coghlan, Mr. David Fisher, Mr. Edmund Leathes, Mr. G. Anson, Mr. Winfred Emery, and several ladies of talent. This is decidedly a strong company; they are also materially assisted by some excellent scenery painted by Messrs. George Gordon and Harford, together with Walter Hannand Bruce Smith, and some incidental music by Mr. Robert Stoffel. In all respects, Mr. Wilson Barrett commands esteem by the careful manner in which the new drama has been prepared for the stage. The battle, however, is not yet decided. An ambitious originality in the mode of treating the theme troubled and disturbed not a few; others regarded it as mere caprice. But things of this kind find their level; and frequently public opinion, after a fair trial, decides for the author. The work will be variously criticised, and will lead to much discussion. The play, as originally written by Mr. B. Howard, has already been acted in America, but it has been much improved by Mr. Albery. He has imparted to it a pathos, which secures the sympathy of an intelligent audience.

The Folly was reopened on Saturday, when Mr. H. J. Byron generously appeared as the substitute for Mr. J. L. Toole, whose illness and sorrow prevent him from at present appearing before the public. The play performed was "Not Such a Fool as He Looks," Mr. Byron personating with his usual power Sir Simon Simple. The impersonation, as our readers know, is of the most diverting sort—one of those quiet delineations in which Mr. Byron excels. Mr. E. W. Gordon as Mr. Mould was good, Mr. H. Westland as Frederick Grantley amusing, and Mr. John Billington as Mr. Daniel Murgatroyd appropriately forcible. Miss Roland Phillips and Miss Eliza Johnstone deserve commendation as Felicia Craven and Mrs. Morton. The talent of such performers should be found sufficiently attractive until Mr. Toole himself shall be enabled to return to the boards.

The Opéra Comique seeks, by an ingenious arrangement, to give an extended life to "H.M.S. Pinafore," by organising a performance of the opera by children. The music has been revised to suit the voices of the young performers, who personate the characters with a neatness and intelligence that surprises as well as pleases. The entertainment is altogether unique, and must become exceedingly popular. We do not mention the names of the individual artistes, out of a regard for their future, which, in such cases, we fear, may be compromised by a too early trial. In itself it is a marvel, and is adapted to give a peculiar sensation of delight to adult audiences, at an exhibition which is full of contrasts and suggestions that provoke more reflection than can be expressed in a limited space.

Mr. Hollingshead has issued the following account of his stewardship of the Gaiety Theatre:—"To the public. To-day, Dec. 20, is the eleventh anniversary of the opening of the Gaiety Theatre. During these eleven years the house has only been closed sixty nights, and has been opened for 434 day performances; in other words, it has been kept open by me for twelve years and eleven weeks in the space of eleven years. Though our present programme would have carried us successfully through Christmas, it will be temporarily withdrawn after Christmas Eve in favour of one of those special holiday entertainments which I have been accustomed to produce for several years past. 'Gulliver,' however, will only be played for a limited number of nights, and after it is withdrawn the burlesque of 'Robbing Roy" will resume its run. At Easter the Hanlon Lees will appear in their eccentric pantomimic farce, 'The Voyage en Suisse,' which has been a great and peculiar success in Paris, and has been done into English by Mr. Reece. 'The French Plays,' as announced, will begin on May 24. The performances will be an annual feature in the Gaiety programme, and every care will be taken to render each foreign season worthy of its predecessor."

Messrs. Maskelyne and Cook have introduced a new Christmas programme to the public at the Egyptian Hall. In addition to the wonderful performances of Mr. Maskelyne's androids, it includes a talking automaton cockatoo, an automaton creeping and coiling serpent, and the flight of Mr. Maskelyne off the fully lighted stage, with no visible means of support.

Vice-Chancellor Malins had before him yesterday week a friendly suit, "Buckstone v. Fraser," brought on behalf of the family of the late Mr. J. B. Buckstone, the actor. Sir William Fraser, trustee of a fund of about £1200 raised during the lifetime of the deceased, asked the Court to sanction a scheme for the investment of the balance, in order to pay the widow and her family an annuity of £80 as long as the money lasted. His Lordship acceded to the application.

A NEW CHRISTMAS PASTIME:

THE GAME OF THE ROAD.

Acrostics were known to have been written in Greece and Rome in days before the Christian era; but they obtained great favour in France in the sixteenth century, and were made highly popular in England in Queen Elizabeth's reign, chiefly through the ingenious verses of the courtly poet Sir John Davies. Though Dryden and Addison sneered at them as antiquated modes of wit which had long been exploded from the commonwealth of letters, yet they continued to hold their own as harmless methods for procuring innocent amusement united to no little dexterity of invention. The single acrostics, however, have long since given place to the double acrostics—those enigmas or charades, or "novel and ingenious riddles," as I termed them, when I had the pleasure of first introducing them to the public in the pages of the *Illustrated London News* Aug. 30, 1856. They at once hit the public fancy; and answers to the five Double Acrostic Charades that I wrote in that number of this Journal, and in the number for Sept. 13, poured in from correspondents in each quarter of the globe. Since then Double Acrostics have been published in numberless newspapers and periodicals, and, after twenty-three years of public service, still maintain the popularity that they immediately obtained on their first appearance in this Journal.

A similar success will not, probably, await my suggestion for a new Pastime; but, without any apology, I add it to the multiplicity of ways and means that now exist for healthily occupying the intellects and memories of young and old of both sexes, who have met together to spend a few hours in varied games and amusements, whether at Christmas or any other season. I start the idea from the old story of two bagmen—an intelligent and hard-working class, who, perhaps, were better acquainted than the generality of people with the scenery of Great Britain. The story goes, that these two bagmen laid a wager that one of them would name the prettiest road in all England. But the wager had to be drawn, for the one traveller named the road from Warwick to Leamington, while the other traveller named the road from Leamington to Warwick. That was many years ago, before the railway age, and when there were fewer houses between the two towns than there are at the present time. But the anecdote suggests the new game that may be added to the novelties of the Christmas season—the Game of the Road.

Let each person in the company be asked to name, either by word of mouth or in writing, some road with which they are acquainted, in whatever county, country, or quarter of the globe it may happen to be. Thus, for example, and borrowing from the bagmen—"Name and describe the prettiest road that you know." And so with other roads, such as the ugliest road, the loneliest road, the hilliest road, the straightest road, the broadest road, the narrowest road, the roughest road, the weariest road, the dreariest road, the busiest road, the dustiest road, the noisiest road, the quietest road, the muddiest road, the most circuitous road, the steepest road, the most romantic road, the most ancient road, the road by the prettiest lake, the road by the loveliest river, the road by celebrated castles, the road by the greatest number of mansions, or abbeys, or deer-parks, or historic spots, or battle-fields, &c.

In the replies to such questions as these, much information could be interchanged, and travellers would be able to give their personal experiences of foreign lands. The game would afford instruction, as well as amusement, especially to the young; would not require any preparation, and would only tax the powers of memory in an agreeable way. An hour might be pleasantly spent in this pastime, which is susceptible of many variations—in short, of Roads' variations; and he who was adjudged to have given the best answers, might be dubbed, for that evening, the Colossus of Rhodes. CUTHBERT BEDE.

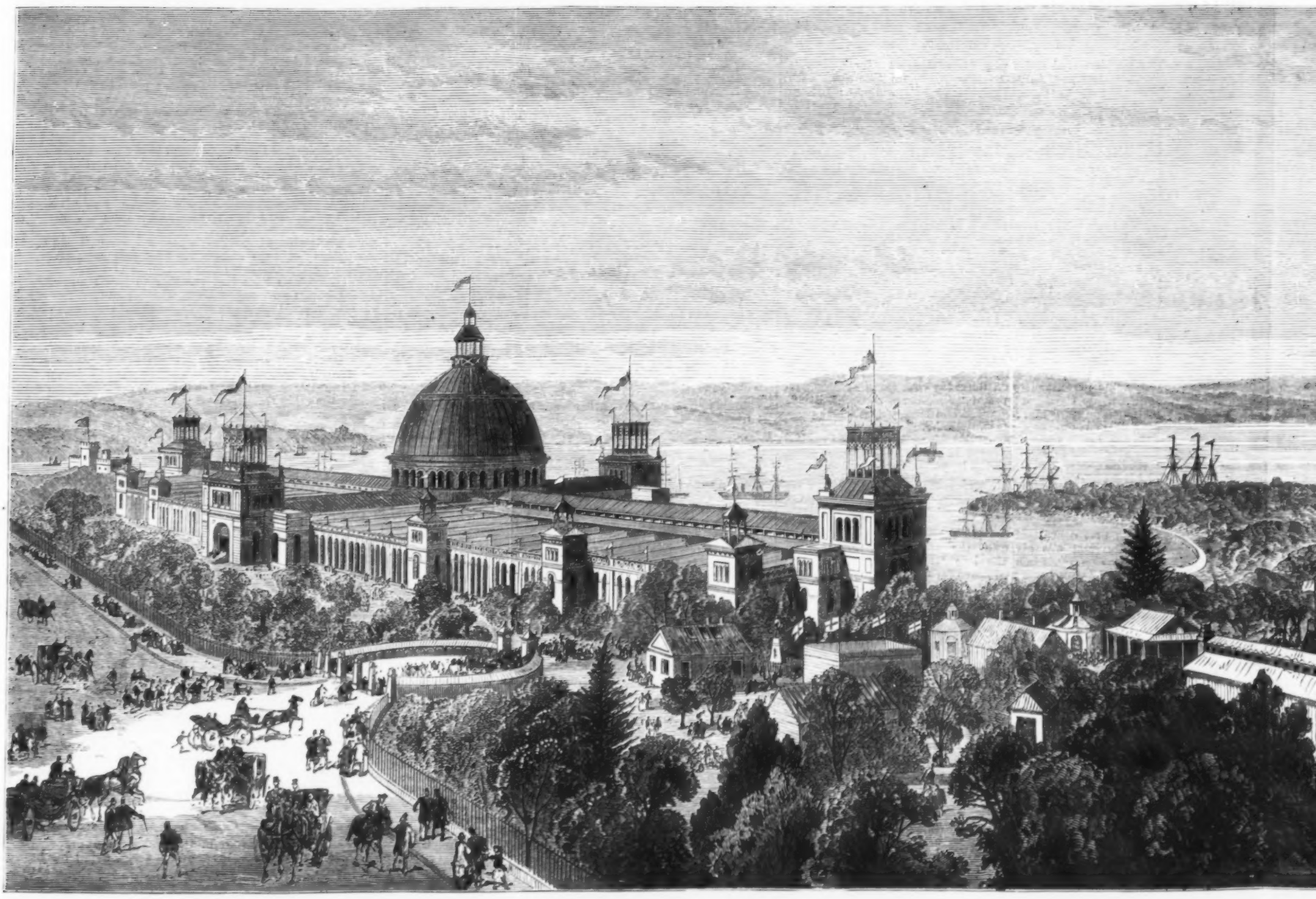
The Corporation of Rochester last Saturday sealed a petition to Parliament in favour of the undertakings proposed to be carried out by the Corporation, for which a bill has been introduced. These include the construction of spacious docks in the Medway, towards which the Corporation will contribute; the purchase and extension of the waterworks, the embankment of the Medway, and other important undertakings.

THE SYDNEY INTERNA

SEE PAGE 5

LORD AUGUSTUS LOFTUS,
GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE EARL OF BELMORE
PRESIDENT OF THE LONDON COMMISSION FOR THE EXHIBITION.



THE PALACE, FROM THE STEEPLE O

R N A T I O N A L E X H I B I T I O N.

SEE PAGE 583.

SIR D. COOPER, BART., K.C.M.G.,
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE LONDON COMMISSION.

MR. P. A. JENNINGS, C.M.G.,
EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER FOR THE EXHIBITION.

North Head. Garden Island Machinery Hall. Live Stock Annexes. Shark and Clark Islands.

TEEPLE OF ST. JAMES'S CHURCH

OBITUARY.

LADY WOOD.

Emma Caroline, Lady Wood, died at an advanced age, on the 15th inst., at Belhus, her son-in-law's seat in Essex. Her Ladyship was youngest daughter of Sampson Mitchell, Esq., R.N., of Croft West, Cornwall, Admiral in the Portuguese Navy, and was married Feb. 16, 1820, to the Rev. Sir John Page Wood, second Baronet, eldest son of Sir Matthew Wood, Bart., M.P., twice Lord Mayor of London. Of the marriage there was a numerous issue: the eldest son was the late Sir Francis Wood, Bart., and the fifth is the gallant Sir Evelyn Wood, V.C., K.C.B. Of the daughters, the fourth, Emma, married, 1853, Sir Thomas Barrett Lennard, Bart., of Belhus. Lady Wood was left a widow Feb. 21, 1866. Her husband's only surviving brother is William Page, Lord Hatherley. Lady Wood, the authoress of several popular novels, was a woman of rare accomplishment, good sense, and warmth of feeling. Her life was spared to admit of her participation in the universal gratification the well-earned honours of her son have afforded.

MR. ATKINS DAVIS.

John Nicholas Crofts Atkins Davis, Esq., Deputy Inspector-General of Army Hospitals, died recently at his residence in Dublin. This much-lamented gentleman, long associated with the Royal Artillery, and well known for the interest he took in genealogical pursuits, was eldest son of the late James Thomas Davis, Esq., Royal Artillery, Acting Deputy-Inspector of Ordnance Hospitals in the Peninsular War, by Mary, his wife, daughter of John Atkins, Esq., of Fountainville, in the county of Cork. Mr. Atkins Davis's youngest brother, the late Thomas Davis, was the brilliant poet and eloquent orator of the Young Ireland Party.

We have also to record the deaths of—

Thomas Waters, Esq., Major Royal Marine Light Infantry, on the 6th inst., at Hook, Surrey, in his ninety-ninth year.

The Rev. George Robert Kensit, for nearly fifty years Vicar of Betchworth, Surrey, in his seventy-fifth year.

Colonel Arthur Hill Millett, late Bengal Staff Corps, formerly Inspector-General of Police H.A.D. India, on the 8th inst., aged forty-eight.

Leadbetter Uppleby, Esq., of Wootton, Lincolnshire, J.P. and D.L., late Major R.N. Lincoln Militia, on the 5th inst., in his eighty-first year.

William Mitchell-Innes, Esq., late Captain 13th Hussars, eldest son of Alexander Mitchell-Innes, Esq., of Ayton Castle, in the county of Berwick, by Charlotte Gordon, his first wife, daughter of Sir Thomas Dick-Lauder, Bart., on the 7th inst.

Louisa Paulina, Lady Boughey, wife of Sir Thomas Fletcher Fenton Boughey, Bart., and youngest daughter of Thomas Giffard, Esq., of Chillington, in the county of Stafford, by Lady Charlotte Courtenay, his wife, sister of William, tenth Earl of Devon, on the 10th inst., at Aqualate, near Newport.

Eleanor Irving Matheson, wife of Alexander Matheson, Esq., M.P., of Ardross and Lochalsh, N.B., on the 6th inst., at Ardross Castle. She was great-granddaughter of John, second Earl of Egmont, and sixth daughter of Spencer Perceval, Esq., of Elm Grove, Ealing, eldest son of the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval, the Prime Minister. Mrs. Matheson was married in 1860, and leaves a large family.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

Mrs. Wigram, the wife of Major Wigram, distributed the prizes to the 26th Middlesex (Customs and Docks), on the 11th inst., in the large hall at Cannon-street Hotel. Lieutenant-Colonel Kennard, M.P., the commanding officer, in his opening address, stated that the enrolled strength of the regiment had risen during the past year from 787 to 809; the efficients, in the same time, increasing from 770 to 796.

Yesterday week the Duchess of Connaught presented, in St. James's Hall, the prizes won by members of the London Irish during the past year. The Duke of Connaught, who is the Honorary Colonel of the regiment, bore testimony to their soldierly bearing at Aldershott.

Colonel Stanley, Secretary for War, delivered the prizes yesterday week to the members of the Liverpool Rifle Brigade. He said that the chief objection to arming the volunteers with Martini-Henry rifle was that of expense. As to the idea of a volunteer legion for active service, he would not say that circumstances might not render such a contingent acceptable; but at present volunteers ought to confine themselves within the sphere at first marked out for them.

In the Guildhall last Saturday the Lady Mayoress presented the prizes won during the past year by the 2nd London; and Colonel Burnaby made some remarks on the history of the City of London Volunteers.

Colonel Waller, R.A., and Colonel Fremantle presented the prizes to the 3rd Middlesex Artillery and the 37th Middlesex respectively. The question of the want of proper drilling places for the various metropolitan corps was mentioned.

On Tuesday evening the annual distribution of the prizes won during the past season in great gun and carbine practice by the 3rd Essex Volunteer Artillery Brigade was held in the Townhall, Stratford, in the presence of a large company. Lieutenant-Colonel Hughes, the commanding officer, in opening the proceedings, gave some particulars of the condition of the brigade, which showed a considerable improvement over that of the preceding year.

Colonel A. Lyon-Fremantle will present the prizes to the West London (4th Middlesex), at St. George's Hall, this (Saturday) evening.

Last week there was not a single head of live cattle, sheep, or pigs landed at Liverpool from the United States and Canada, a circumstance which has not occurred for many months past. The quantity of fresh beef brought during the same period was, however, large; and the arrivals of mutton, though not up to the previous week, were still above the average of recent weeks; making a total of 6857 quarters of beef, 1444 carcases of mutton, and 103 dead pigs.

The Home Secretary has nominated to the Recordership of Portsmouth (vacant by the death of Mr. Serjeant Cox) Mr. George Deedes Warry, the leader of the Hampshire Circuit.—Mr. Prideaux, Q.C., Recorder of Exeter, and leader of the Western Circuit, has been appointed Recorder of Bristol, in the place of Mr. Kingdon, Q.C., deceased; and Mr. Collins, Q.C., Recorder of Poole, has been appointed Recorder of Exeter.—Mr. Prior Goldney, of the Western Circuit, has been appointed Recorder of Poole, in succession to Mr. Collins; and Mr. G. F. Speke, of the Western Circuit, has been appointed Recorder of Helston, in his place. Mr. Speke was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in 1849.—Mr. Haden Corser, of the Oxford Circuit, has been appointed deputy stipendiary magistrate of the Wolverhampton district, as a temporary measure, owing to the indisposition of Mr. Boughey.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

EAST MARDEN.—Look at No. 1868 again; there is a reply to 1. B to B 3rd in 1. P to Q 7th.

W F (Harrogate).—The required number has been forwarded.

R C R.—The solutions are withheld for three weeks that those received from abroad may be acknowledged with the others, thus avoiding too many lists of names.

J C W (Aldgate).—Your question was answered a few weeks ago.

H L (Brighton).—Unless there is a stipulated time limit, your adversary is legally justified in occupying any number of hours upon the consideration of his moves.

M O'H (Dublin).—White, having touched his adversary's Pawn, as well as his own Kt, he is bound to capture it. You will find all such technical points settled for you in Staunton's *Praxis*, published by Bohn, Covent-garden.

R T (Brompton).—The chess magazines were noticed in our last number, and you will there find the information for which you ask.

CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 1866 received from Bridgewater, J B Rapp (Munich), Hereward, Underwood, Black Watch, J M F (Dublin), and C F Ancell (Malaga).

CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 1867 received from E L G, A T Ridding, C H Coster, Ryecroft, C J Stephen, J H C (Torquay), O Wolter, Wanstead, J Tucker, G T B Kyngdon, M H Moorhouse, Alpha, J R Dow, W A Grant, Norman Rumbelow, W P Welch, Duke, W de P Crousaz, Eutochus, J W W, Pops, C F Jones, E F Vulliamy, E H H V Lulu, Cant, J B Rapp (Munich), Hereward, W Halliday, G L C, Bridgewater, Fred West, W D Jones, G C Baxter, Orazio, F A Bright, E Louden, R H Brooks, R Bohm, jun., James Dobson, Tobias, W Leeson, L G Batson, Vieurgat (Brussels), W J Eggleston, and Carlos (Lille).

CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 1868 received from H B, Thorpe Reading-Room, J Radermacher, W S Leest, J B Rapp (Munich) R F N Banks, G C Baxter, Orazio, Leslie Lachlan, Lily and Comrade, Pops, R H Brooks, W Leeson, An Old Hand, R Jesson, R Ingersoll, G L Mayne, R H Brewster, G Fosbrooke, Kitten, R Gray, T Greenbank, Ben Nevis, D W Kell, N Cater, Lorna, H Barrett, E Elsbury, M O'Halloran, L S D, H Langford, S Farrant, L Sharswood, Little Woman, Ben Bolt, D Templeton, Oscar, B L Dyke, C Darragh, F R Jeffrey, C Elmore, Julia Short, Shadforth, Cant, Problematicus, E F, E P Vulliamy, Lulu, Eustochus, Norman Rumbelow, Alpha, M H Moorhouse, and Clarence H B.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 1867.

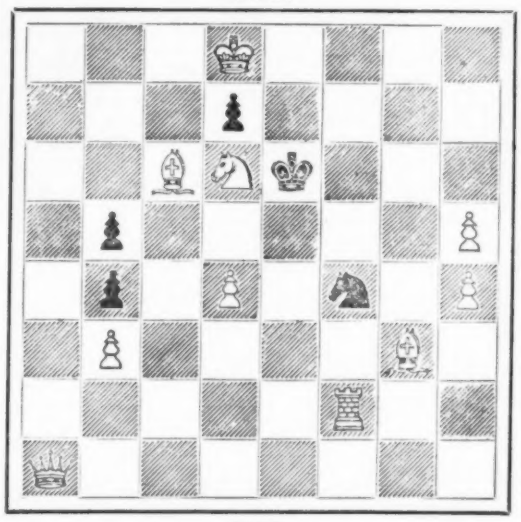
WHITE.	BLACK.
1. Q to Kt 3rd	Any move
2. Mates accordingly.	

NOTE.—This problem was corrected after publication by the author placing a Black Pawn on K Kt 4th. The position has evoked a great deal of interest among our correspondents, and we have consequently been overwhelmed with suggestions for its correction. The simplest and most effective of these is that received from East Marden: substituting a Black Pawn for the Black Knight on Q Kt 7th.

PROBLEM No. 1870.

By J. PAUL TAYLOR.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in two moves.

One of ten Games played *sans voir* simultaneously by Mr. BLACKBURNE during his recent visit to the Potteries. His adversary in this Game is Mr. ASKEW, of Burslem.—(*Allgaier Gambit.*)

WHITE (Mr. B.)	BLACK (Mr. A.)
1. P to K 4th	P to K 4th
2. P to K B 4th	P takes P
3. Kt to K B 3rd	P to K Kt 4th
4. P to K R 4th	P to Kt 5th
5. Kt to K 5th	B to Kt 2nd
6. P to Q 4th	Q to K 2nd

The correct continuation is 6. Kt to K B 3rd, followed by 7. P to Q 4th, should White play the K B to B 4th. The move in the text is ill-timed, and subjects Black to an assault that prevents him developing his forces on the Queen's side.

7. Kt to Q B 3rd	P to Q B 3rd

Occupying the square required for the Q Kt.

8. B takes P	B takes Kt
9. P takes B	

Much better than 9. B takes B. The Pawn is now effectively placed, preventing the advance of the adverse Q P.

9.	P to K R 4th
10. B to B 4th	P to K B 3rd
11. Q to Q 4th	P to Q Kt 4th
12. B takes Kt	P takes P
13. B takes P	R takes B
14. B to Q 6th	Q to Kt 2nd
15. Q takes Q	R takes Q
16. Castles (K R)	R to B 2nd
17. P to K 5th	P to Q Kt 5th
18. R takes R	K takes R
19. R to K B sq (ch)	K to Kt 2nd
20. Kt to K 4th	Kt to R 3rd

It would have been better to have played the Bishop: the Knight has no more scope for action here than he had at home.

21. Kt to Kt 5th	P to B 4th

Useless, of course; for White has now a forced mate in nine moves.

22. R to B 7th (ch)	K to Kt sq
23. P to K 6th	

The next move explains the object of this one.

23.	P takes P
24. B to K 5th	Kt to Kt sq

This is, so far, his best move, that it enables him to interpose the Kt and defer the inevitable mate one move.

25. R to Kt 7th (ch)	K to B sq
26. Kt to R 7th (ch)	K to K sq
27. Kt to B 6th (ch)	K to B sq
28. R to R 7th	Kt to B 3rd
29. B to Q 6th (ch)	Kt to K 2nd
30. B takes Kt. Mate.	

Two chess clubs in New York are just now furnishing the chess world with another illustration of the truism that history repeats itself. In the year 1851 there were two chess clubs in London, amid the jarring sounds of whose recrimination the project of the first international chess tournament seemed likely to be relegated to the limbo of failures; and we now find the New York and Manhattan Chess Clubs engaged in a similar feud. It appears that the New York Chess Club will have nothing to do with the tournament fixed for next January unless the meetings are held within its precincts, and the members of the Manhattan, while solemnly affirming that, before their attention was thus directed to the place of meeting, they had formed no pretensions to such special honour for themselves, they are now convinced it should not be conferred upon the claimants. There is not much to choose between the two associations as regards the locality of their place of meeting. The New York Club meets in a café at the city end of Second-avenue; the Manhattan, at another café in the Bowery. The squabble strikes us as one between two rival "Restaurateurs," and the straight road out of it is to have nothing to do with either.

We give another instalment of "Delta's" reminiscences:—"In my last note I omitted to mention that I had a pleasant tête-à-tête, at Ries', in March, 1849, with the veteran player Alexandre, and had one stubbornly-contested game with him. He must have been then nearly eighty years of age. I was anxious to play with Buckle, but he had always some other opponent. I watched, however, with much intent more than once his play at the Divan. He appeared to me to be the best English player there, and second only in the chess arena to Staunton. After my friendly *rencontre* with Harwitz at Brighton, he paid me a short visit at my home when he came down to Scotland. Our play was, upon the whole, quite equal. He won the odd game at my house; and I, *en revanche*, won the odd game of him some years after at London. The end-position of this last game, played in 1850, was published in the *Schachzeitung* of that year. It is the only souvenir which I have of the games that we played at Brighton, in London, and at my Scottish home. In the spring of 1852 Löwenthal paid me two visits, and we played together. About thirty games, mostly Gambits, of which more than the half were drawn and the won games were equal. I found, from my comparative want of first-rate practice at chess, that it was very hard work to keep my own with two so able and accomplished players as Harwitz and Löwenthal. I recorded at the time, and sent on to Staunton, at least the half of the games that I played with Löwenthal, as my English friend had expressed a desire to have some samples of our play, that he might publish them in the *Chessplayers' Chronicle*. Löwenthal's opinion of our play was, that he knew the openings better than I did, and the Pawn endings fully as well; but that I had the better of him in the grand '*combinations*,' as he called it, in the thick of the fight! I believe that his view was the correct one, for, if I was not floored in the opening of the game, I found that it was comparatively plain sailing afterwards. Löwenthal and Harwitz were both most agreeable men to play with, and never lost their temper at chess. Many chessplayers are like the poets, an 'irritabile genus!'"

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.

The will (dated Feb. 22, 1879) of Mr. Edward Backhouse, late of Ashburne, Bishopwearmouth, Durham, banker, who died on May 22 last at Hastings, was proved on the 8th ult. at the Durham district registry by Alfred Backhouse, the brother, and Edward Backhouse Mounsey and James Edward Backhouse, the nephews, the executors, the personal estate, including leaseholds, being sworn under £180,000. The testator devises the Duke's House estate and other properties to his wife, Mrs. Katharine Backhouse, for life, and at her decease to the children of his deceased brother, Thomas James Backhouse, subject to the payment of £8000 to the children of his deceased sister, Mrs. Lucy Backhouse Mounsey; he also leaves to his wife his mansion at Ashdowne for life, certain household effects, furniture, books, goods and chattels, and a pecuniary legacy of £15,000; to his executors £500 each; to his brothers-in-law, John and Edward Mounsey, annuities of £150 each for their respective lives; to his said nephew, Edward Backhouse Mounsey, his mansion-house at Seaton Carew; and other bequests. He devises and bequeaths all his shares in collieries and the residue of his real and personal estate upon trust to pay his wife £10,000 per annum for life if she shall so long remain his widow, and if she shall marry again to pay her £5000 per annum for life; and as to the ultimate residue, one third is to go to his brother Alfred, one third equally between the children of his said deceased brother, and the other third equally between the children of his said deceased sister. In the event of the testator having any children after the execution of his will, which, we believe, was not the case, most of the foregoing bequests are revoked.

The will (dated July 30, 1878) with a codicil (dated Nov. 28 following) of Mr. Edward Greaves, late of Avonside, in the parish of Barford, Warwickshire, who died on July 6 last, has been proved at the Birmingham district registry by Edward Seymour Greaves, the nephew, and Brabazon Campbell, the acting executors, the personal estate in the United Kingdom being sworn under £90,000. The testator bequeaths £100 each to the Church Missionary Society, the Warneford Hospital, Leamington; the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham; the Church Association, the British and Foreign Bible Society, and the Christian Knowledge Society; £50 to the Warwickshire Natural History Society; to his godson, Edward Thomas Ward, £12,000 and certain parts of his property at Barford; upon trust for his stepdaughter, Mrs. Harriette Anne Smith, £6600, and other legacies. The remainder of his property at Barford, the residue of his personal estate in England, and all his heritable and movable property in Scotland, the testator leaves to his said nephew, Edward Seymour Greaves; and the residue of his real estate in England to his nephew Richard Methuen Greaves. The deceased was for many years member of Parliament for Warwick.

The will (dated Feb. 4, 1869) of Mr. Thomas Hollings, late of Cliff Villa, Clifton, near York, who died on Oct. 19 last, was proved on the 4th inst. by John Hollings, the brother, the sole executor, the personal estate being sworn under £70,000. The testator devises his mansion-house and lands at Copt Hewick, in the parish of Ripon, to his nephew, Herbert John Butler Hollings; and bequeaths £4000 each to the three daughters of his said brother John; an annuity of £150 to his cousin, Martha Jane Fox; a legacy of £300 and an annuity of £10 to his servant, John King; £1000 each to his cousins, George Thornton and Henry Thornton; 50 guineas for a ring to his friend, Richard Ridehalgh; one year's wages to each of the regular servants in his house except John King; and the residue of his real and personal estate to his said brother.

The will (dated Dec. 23, 1868) with a codicil (dated Sept. 23, 1876) of Mrs. Frances Charlotte Fleming, formerly of No. 61A, Portsdown-gardens, but late of No. 31, Queen's-gate, Kensington, who died on the 6th ult., was proved on the 2nd inst. by Charles Henry Fleming, the son, the acting executor, the personal estate being sworn under £40,000. The testatrix, after making specific bequests to several of her children, leaves the residue of her property between her children, William, Charles Henry, Catherine, Frances Margaret, Mary, Maria Elizabeth, Alice, and Gertrude.

The will (dated April 29, 1879) of Mr. William Farmer, late of No. 67, Westminster Bridge-road, sculptor, who died on the 6th ult., was proved on the 10th inst. by Charles Edward Stowell, the Very Rev. Joseph Moore, and Henry Wheeler Barnes, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £20,000.

The will (dated March 25, 1873) with a codicil (dated April 6, 1878) of Mr. William Carter, late of Effingham Cottage, Copthorn, Surrey, who died on Oct. 8 last, was proved on the 3rd inst. by William Carter, and Robert Joseph Carter, and William Henry Carter, the sons, the surviving executors, the personal estate being sworn under £25,000.

The will (dated July 4, 1879) of Mr. Leonard A. Montefiore, late of 18, Portman-square, who died on Sept. 6 last, has been proved by his brother Claude Montefiore and James Rendel, his executors, the personal estate being sworn under £10,000. Among numerous other legacies the testator bequeaths £1000 to the Childrens' Hospital, Great Ormond-street; the sum of £100 each to the Jews' Infant School, Commercial-street, Whitechapel; the Jews' Westminster Free School, Greek-street; the Hospital for Incurable Children, Cheyne-walk, Chelsea; and the Metropolitan Association for befriending Young Servants; and the sum of £50 each to the Women's Provident and Protective League, the Charity Organisation Society, and the Society for the Suppression of Vice.

The will (dated Jan. 18, 1877) of Miss Elizabeth Courage, late of Denmark-hill, who died on Oct. 22 last, was proved on the 4th inst. by Miss Harriett Living, the niece, the personal estate being sworn under £10,000. The testatrix bequeaths to her servant Emma Tarrant, £500; to her servant Mary Tarrant, £30; and the residue to her said niece.

The will (dated May 6, 1876) of Sir George Benvenuto Buckley Mathew, C.B., K.C.M.G., formerly her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Emperor of Brazil, but late of Clydesdale Villa, Leamington, who died on Oct. 22 last, at No. 16, Suffolk-street, Pall-mall East, was proved on the 29th ult. by Arthur Earle and Charles Guy Pym, the acting executors, the personal estate being sworn under £3000.

A memorial to the late Prince Imperial, in the form of a cross, is to be placed on Chiselhurst-common.

Dr. Hunter, Director-General of Statistics to the Government of India, gave an address on "Indian Finance" at Birmingham yesterday week. He advocated a treaty of commerce between England and India, as the only solution of the import duty difficulty.

The Archbishop of York on the 11th inst. opened at Sheffield the Wostenholm Memorial Hall, a building which has been erected at a cost of £11,000 by a lady of Sheffield in memory of her husband, who was a leading cutlery manufacturer. It is a gift to the town, and consists of a café, mission-room, and lecture-hall, with ample provision for rational recreation for working men.

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DRAWN BY R. C.

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N BY R. C. WOODVILLE.